

Nabatiyeh attack wounds 4 Israelis

BEIRUT (AP) — Four Israeli soldiers were wounded Monday by a roadside bomb which exploded next to their patrol vehicle in the town of Nabatiyeh, South Lebanon, an Israeli spokesman said in Tel Aviv. An explosive charge went up as an Israeli military convoy was passing through Nabatiyeh, causing a fire and a number of casualties, according to telephone reports from the area earlier Monday. The reports said the convoy was entering an Israeli military position. The explosive charge was believed to have been detonated by remote control. Two ambulances and a helicopter were seen evacuating the casualties as Israeli troops sealed off the area and began a search in nearby houses. Nabatiyeh has become a focal point of resistance activities against Israel in recent months. The casualties were the first to be announced in two weeks and the first in Nabatiyeh for a month.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز: مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية "الراي"

Peres calls for Lebanese enclave

NEW YORK (R) — Israeli opposition Labour leader Shimon Peres says in a magazine interview that Israel should plan to withdraw its troops from Lebanon soon — but only after creating a haven for Israeli-backed Lebanese rightists in the south. "We should aim for a quick withdrawal from Lebanon, but only after we've created a sphere of influence in the south through informal agreements with such co-operative local Shi'ites as we can find and with the Christians," Mr. Peres said in an interview in the latest issue of Newsweek. "A southern Lebanon relatively free of the Syrian pressure could become a haven for the Christians from other parts of Lebanon. Our army should support this security structure by ground patrols and by protecting the air against the Syrians," he said.

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Bush to meet Craxi, Mitterrand

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush will meet Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and French President Francois Mitterrand this week to discuss the U.S. Marine redeployment in Lebanon, the White House said Monday. Mr. Bush will meet Mr. Craxi in Rome Tuesday after attending the funeral of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov in Moscow. The meeting with Mr. Mitterrand is set for Wednesday in Paris before Mr. Bush returns to Washington on Thursday.

Assad holds talks on Lebanon

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad discussed the Lebanese crisis with Libyan second-in-command Major Abdul Salam Jalloud Monday and an official spokesman said the talks focussed on "U.S.-government escalated interference" in the country's internal affairs. The meeting followed another round of talks earlier Monday between Mr. Assad and South Yemeni President Ali Nasser Yahmami.

Kidnapped twins freed in Beirut

BEIRUT (R) — The Shi'ite Muslim militia movement Amal said late Sunday night it had freed the twin sons of a Kuwaiti diplomat who were abducted in Beirut Sunday and had arrested their kidnappers. The 16-year-old youths had been returned to their family and their father had contacted Amal to express his thanks, a militia spokesman said.

Kuwait trials continue in camera

KUWAIT (R) — The trial of 25 people accused of involvement in a wave of bomb attacks in Kuwait last December went into its third day Monday in camera and amid a total news blackout. The trial started on Saturday with a public session lasting for about an hour, after which the three-man state security court went into closed session. Sunday's hearings were also held in camera.

'U.S. doctors gave advice over Andropov'

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States helped to arrange consultations between American specialists and Soviet doctors treating President Yuri Andropov before he died, according to U.N. Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick. "I personally helped expedite a consultation between a very distinguished Soviet specialist on kidneys and an American specialist," she said Sunday in a television interview.

Poll says Reagan may be re-elected

NEW YORK (R) — President Reagan holds a clear lead over the two main Democratic contenders for the presidential nomination and 53 per cent of voters predict he will be re-elected, according to a poll published Monday. Mr. Reagan was rated 53 per cent to 43 per cent over former Vice-President Walter Mondale and 56 to 40 over Senator John Glenn in the Newsweek magazine poll.

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Old generation resumes Kremlin power

Chernenko elected new Soviet leader

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko, 72, a close aide to the late President Leonid Brezhnev, was Monday appointed leader of the Soviet Communist Party in succession to Yuri Andropov.

The choice of Mr. Chernenko, a Siberian peasant's son who left school at 12, was widely seen as a remarkable personal come-back and a victory for the conservative, older generation of party officials opposed to Mr. Andropov's reforms.

A stocky white-haired Russian with heavy slavic features, Mr. Chernenko is older than any of the five previous Soviet leaders were when they took office.

State radio and television announced his election by the Communist Party Central Committee four days after Mr. Andropov's death. The post of state president, also held by Mr. Andropov, remains vacant.

Informed Soviet sources said resistance to Mr. Chernenko from former Andropov supporters in the 12-man Politburo was behind the unprecedented delay in the nomination of a new leader.

The announcement of the successor to Mr. Andropov was made at 2 p.m. (1100 GMT), about an hour after members of the ruling Politburo filed through the House of Unions to pay their last respects to the departed party leader.

Mr. Chernenko, the oldest man ever named to lead the 18-million-member party, was nominated by Premier Nikolai A. Tikhonov after the 300-plus members of the Central Committee observed a moment of silence. Mr. Chernenko was then unanimously elected, the official report of the session said.

Younger Politburo members, groomed by Mr. Andropov, were understood to have fought a rear-guard action to block Mr. Chernenko and what they saw as a return to practices of the Brezhnev era, the sources said.

Jordanian delegation leaves for Moscow

AMMAN (J.T.) — An official Jordanian delegation left Amman Monday for Moscow to attend the funeral Tuesday of the late Soviet President Yuri Andropov.

The delegation, headed by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, includes Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri and Chief-of-Staff Lieutenant-General Fathi Abu Taleb.

Funeral details

Mr. Andropov's body will be lowered into the ground at Moscow's Red Square at 12:45 p.m. (1945 GMT) Tuesday as rifles are fired in Moscow and 34 other cities, TASS announced Monday.

Mr. Andropov's body will be carried from the House of Unions, two blocks from the Kremlin, to Red Square on Tuesday morning. In the past, the leader's body has been carried in an open coffin accompanied by Soviet soldiers, family and members of the ruling Politburo.

At 12:45 p.m., as the body is lowered into the ground among the Soviet Union's dead heroes, rifle volleys will sound in the capitals of the 15 Soviet republics and in 20 other cities, including Leningrad and Stavropol, TASS said. Stavropol is the capital of Mr. Andropov's native region.

The official news agency, publishing a report from the funeral commission headed by Konstantin U. Chernenko, also said the work of most factories and offices would stop for five minutes, and the whistles of all "factories, plants, railways (and) the vessels of the sea and river fleets will hoot in salute for three minutes."

Nations pay last respects to Andropov, page 8

zhnev era, the sources said.

Mr. Chernenko is seen to have the support of party officials whose positions were jeopardised by Mr. Andropov's drive to root out inefficiency and renew the senior ranks.

His election was greeted by Muscovites with little surprise and some indifference. Many people believed the choice was made when he was nominated to head the Andropov funeral committee last Friday.

Mr. Chernenko, who was in charge of ideology and effectively the party's number two, rose high in the Kremlin hierarchy as the protégé of Mr. Brezhnev, whom he served as chief of staff for 20 years. He has a reputation for political orthodoxy.

In foreign policy he is known to support efforts to further East-West détente, though he has little experience in the area. One of his first tasks will be to greet a stream of foreign leaders attending Mr. Andropov's burial in Red Square Tuesday.

Pledge to continue policy

In a long acceptance speech that contrasted with the brief address by Mr. Andropov when he took over 15 months ago, Mr. Chernenko pledged to continue party policy.

He said nobody should doubt the Soviet Union's desire to strengthen its capacity for defence "so that we may have the means to cool the hot heads of the military adventurists."

But he added: "The USSR will co-operate fully with all states which are ready to help relieve international tensions with practical measures."

Washington seeks Bush and Chernenko meeting

WASHINGTON (R) — The White House said Monday it would welcome a meeting between U.S. Vice-President George Bush and new Soviet leader Konstantin Chernenko.

Mr. Bush is to attend the funeral in Moscow Tuesday for Soviet President Yuri Andropov, who died last Thursday.

Referring to Mr. Bush's plans, the White House said: "At this time, he has not scheduled a meeting with the new general secretary (Chernenko). We would welcome such a meeting."

A senior administration official who asked not to be named said that a meeting between Mr. Bush and Mr. Chernenko was likely if the Soviet Union followed past practice.

"Vice-President Bush will stress our commitment to peace and, in particular, to the search for mutually acceptable agreements in his discussions in Moscow," the White House said in a statement read by Deputy Press Secretary Larry Speakes.

"We invite the new leaders of the Soviet Union to work with us in establishing a basis for greater understanding and constructive co-operation."

The statement was in keeping with the more conciliatory tone adopted by President Reagan in recent comments on the Soviet Union.

In speeches in the past month, Mr. Reagan has dropped the harsh language he previously directed toward Moscow and asked the Kremlin to return to the suspended talks on nuclear arms control.

Reagan weighs conflicting advice on talks with new Soviet chief, page 8

tical deeds, to create in the world an atmosphere of trust."

U.S. and West European leaders have said they hope the change in Kremlin leadership will mark a turning point in East-West relations, at their most tense for decades.

Praise for Andropov

The new leader praised Mr. Andropov's achievements and said the best way of paying tribute to his memory was by continuing the work he started.

But going into detail, he implied there would be a wide reassessment of Mr. Andropov's approach to economic reform, which was marked by the promotion of well-educated technocrats to senior party posts linked with the economy.

"The practice of substituting economic managers disenchanted with the system, this harbours the danger of weakening the role of the party committee as a body of political guidance," he said.

"It is necessary to evaluate realistically what has been achieved without exaggerating or belittling (the achievements)," he added. He also stressed the need for social justice in salaries and benefits under the communist system — an apparent criticism of Mr. Andropov's drive to create greater material incentives to improve productivity in industry and agriculture.

In his prolific articles and speeches, Mr. Chernenko has made clear he believes stronger ideological and political motivation is the key to greater efficiency.

His last major policy statement, a headline address on ideology to a Central Committee gathering last June, heralded a crackdown in the arts and culture.

Mr. Chernenko made no reference in his speech Monday to Soviet relations with the developing countries or China.

Profile of Chernenko on page 4



His Majesty King Hussein receives President Hosni Mubarak at a dinner he hosted to honour the Egyptian leader Sunday (right) and confers with U.S. President Reagan at the White House Monday (left).

King begins talks with Reagan

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein met U.S. President Ronald Reagan Monday for talks on Middle East peace efforts and the situation in Lebanon.

King Hussein's visit to Washington, following medical treatment and a vacation in the United States, coincides with a visit by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Mr. Reagan will meet the two leaders together at the White House Tuesday.

Mr. Reagan, who is to lunch with both King Hussein and President Mubarak Monday, said his meeting with the Jordanian leader focused on concerns affecting peace in the Middle East.

U.S.-Jordan co-operation was increasingly vital in the face of violence in Lebanon, the growing terrorist threat, and "the ominous cloud of war that hovers over much of the Middle East," Mr. Reagan said as he appeared with the King at the White House.

He said they both believed that despite formidable challenges there were still opportunities for a broader peace in the region.

The president said King Hussein was an important force behind United Nations Resolution 242, which calls for Israel's withdrawal from Arab territories in exchange for recognised borders.

He said the U.S. commitment to Jordan's security was "firm and unwavering."

"We also agree that terrorism cannot be tolerated and that the leaders of all states must stand together against this new barbarism that threatens civilisation," Mr. Reagan said.

The president said states that condoned terrorism "undermine their own legitimacy."

Mr. Reagan did not specify any country, but he has previously accused Iranian extremists of bombing U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut last October.

The King and Her Majesty Queen Noor, who arrived in Washington Sunday, hosted a dinner in honour of President Hosni Mubarak and his wife Sunday night.

It was the King's second meeting with Mr. Mubarak since Egypt became isolated in the Arab World after signing a separate treaty with Israel five years ago.

They met for talks last year at the summit of the Non-Aligned Movement in New Delhi.

This week's discussions are the first top level Arab-American talks since Mr. Reagan announced plans last week to pull back U.S. Marines in Lebanon's Multi-National Force (MNF) from Beirut airport to ships offshore.

U.S. officials called this a redeployment, and not a withdrawal signalling reduced commitment to the goal of a sovereign, stable Lebanon.

The officials said a redeployment schedule was expected to be set this week and Vice-President George Bush would hold talks with French President Francois Mitterrand and Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi after attending the Moscow funeral Tuesday of Soviet President Yuri Andropov.

The White House talks Monday and Tuesday will give Mr. Reagan an opportunity to hear at first hand how the U.S. troops pull-back is seen in the Arab World. Officials said no breakthroughs were expected at the talks.

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President Reagan confers with King Hussein at the White House Monday.

Iraq vows retaliation for shellings

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iranian artillery shelled four Iraqi cities Monday and the military vowed to retaliate by striking targets "deep inside Iranian territory," Baghdad Radio reported.

A military spokesman, speaking over the radio, said the cities of Basra, Mandali, Khanaqin and Khurmal had been shelled, "causing loss of life and damage to property."

"In order to deter the treacherous Iranian regime and in retaliation for its savage, reckless practices, we will vehemently strike selected Iranian targets deep inside Iranian territory," the spokesman said.

Iran shelled seven Iraqi cities and towns on Sunday, and Iraq retaliated by firing on four Iranian cities, Iraqi officials said. The Iranians killed 14 people and injured 89, and Iran claimed the Iraqis killed at least 15 people and wounded more than 120.

Both sides forewarned each other of the attacks in an effort to allow civilians to evacuate targeted areas.

The Iranian artillery fire followed an Iraqi attack Saturday on the southern Iranian oil city of Dezful, 80 kilometres east of the border.

Iraq said Sunday Iran had shelled Basra, Mandali and Khanaqin early in the day, killing 13 civilians and wounding 85 others in Basra.

An Iraqi military spokesman said that in retaliation for Sunday's bombardments, Iraq attacked the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini at the head of the Gulf, along with the oil town of Abadan opposite Basra on the Shatt Al Arab waterway. Geilan-e-Gharb and Sarbil-e-Zahab.

He said the petro-chemical complex at Bandar Khomeini, which was being built with Japanese co-operation, was also hit and severely damaged.

Iraq said last week it would attack 11 Iranian centres with missile and air strikes if Iran continued to shell Iraqi border towns.

Meanwhile, Japan appealed to Iraq and Iran Sunday to prevent an escalation of their 40-month-old war.

Yoshio Hatano, director-general of the Foreign Ministry's Middle Eastern and African Affairs Bureau, made the appeal at separate meetings with the ambassadors of both countries, ministry officials said.

GCC starts military meetings, page 2

Beirut 'green line' relaxes a little

BEIRUT (R) — Opposition militiamen, Lebanese army troops and French forces co-operated Monday to open a small gap in the "green line" dividing Beirut, and a few motorists and pedestrians managed to cross for the first time in a week.

The Lebanese capital had been effectively sliced in two since predominantly Muslim and leftist militias fought a bloody 17-hour battle to seize mainly Muslim west Beirut from army control.

Since then the militias have been fighting localised battles day and night along the "green line," preventing almost all private and commercial crossings and causing west Beirut to run short of some essential supplies.

On Monday, the warring factions, aided by French troops, opened a muddy, single-lane road at Barbur, about three kilometres southeast of the city centre, and for a few hours traffic crawled between the two sides of the divided city.

French soldiers controlled the traffic, which travellers described as extremely slow and chaotic. Groups of militiamen of the Moubaraboun and Shi'ite Muslim "Amal" movement also directed a traffic on the western approaches.

At one stage the French closed the crossing point because of arguments about whether food trucks should be allowed into west Beirut. But eventually the vehicles were allowed through.

Amal militia leader Nabih Berri said 220 tonnes of flour had come through Monday, plus petrol, fuel oil and badly needed oxygen for hospitals.

Mr. Berri said he hoped a second crossing, by Beirut port, would open in a few hours. He also hoped the coastal road to the south would be passable within two days and that Beirut airport could resume operations within a week.

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Saudi-Lebanese mediator Rafiq Al Hariri arrived in Beirut Monday from Riyadh, and radio stations said he was going later to Damascus to brief Syrian leaders about the latest attitudes of Lebanese and Saudi leaders towards a political settlement.

President Amin Gemayel has produced a new 28-point reform plan, including greater power-sharing for Muslims, which he hoped to present to a resumed national reconciliation conference in Geneva before the end of the month.

Lebanese await political moves: France ready to withdraw from Beirut; U.S. willing to provide new aid to Lebanon; Beirut Marines reduced to 1,000 men, page 2

Gemayel says he will not quit presidency

PARIS (R) — Lebanese President Amin Gemayel said in a television interview broadcast Monday that he would not bow to opposition demands for his resignation.

"I stress this. What counts is continuity," Mr. Gemayel told French Television reporters at his palace in the Beirut suburb of Baabda. Shellfire could be heard outside.

"This is a democracy. I was elected by the parliament and I am here to take on responsibility for the country... it is up to the institutions to decide. As for me, I shall continue to defend these institutions, to protect them," Mr. Gemayel said.

Asked if this meant he would not resign, he said: "That's clear."

In the interview, which was recorded Sunday, Mr. Gemayel also commented on the U.S. decision to re-deploy its troops from Beirut to U.S. warships offshore.

"President Reagan continues to support Lebanon and perhaps his new decision will be better for us because the Marines on the ground were not very efficient," he said. "This way the Marines will perhaps have more freedom of movement."

Asked whether he thought military intervention by the Israelis could be a possible last resort if the Lebanese crisis worsened, Mr. Gemayel said there could be no military solution to the conflict.

"Only agreement between Lebanese could save Lebanon," he said. "We are working on this agreement between Lebanese and, believe me, we have made major progress forward despite all you see around you."

He added: "The fact that the institutions are still working is already a big sign. We are in contact with the different parties here and we can hope to reach a solution to this bloody conflict quite rapidly."

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Lebanon awaits political moves after fierce fighting

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanon waited in uneasy calm Monday for the political outcome of last week's military victory by opposition militias in west Beirut.

Fighting subsided Sunday, along the so-called Green Line dividing east Beirut from the western sector and traffic moved both ways at a single crossing point opened by French troops.

But shelling continued in the nearby Shouf Mountains and there was fighting after dark along the Green Line between the army and militias, who seized west Beirut a week ago.

There was still no clear indication what political benefit the opposition would reap from the victory.

Despite their success, Shi'ite and Druze militia leaders seemed to lack the political support needed to force the resignation of President Amin Gemayel and

they have toned down or dropped outright demands for his removal.

Political sources said the president was awaiting an American decision on whether Washington would agree to cancellation of Lebanon's troop withdrawal agreement with Israel signed last May 17.

Opposition leaders have indicated cancellation of the U.S.-mediated accord is the key to opening the way to a broader political dialogue.

The accord has been a thorny issue since it was signed. Its cancellation has been a principal demand of the Syrian-backed opposition and Syria itself, because it would legalise a permanent Israeli security presence in southern Lebanon.

Mr. Gemayel has long refused ratification, but he has also refused cancellation, because the accord binds Israel eventually to withdraw. He wants guarantees that Syria will pull out its troops if the Israelis go.

But under recent heavy pressure Mr. Gemayel has made clear he would be prepared to discuss any alternative to the accord that would rid Lebanon of Syrian and Israeli troops.

Former President Camille Chamoun, warned that many Lebanese wanted the agreement ratified as "the only means of liberating Lebanese territory... from Israeli occupation."

He said: "Abrogation of the agreement exposes this vast part of Lebanon to a long and maybe final occupation."

France ready to withdraw from Beirut

PARIS (Agencies) — President Francois Mitterrand said Sunday night he "remains ready" to withdraw French forces from Lebanon, although he has not yet given such an order.

In an interview with the French television network TF1, Mr. Mitterrand vowed not to risk "the lives of our soldiers any longer than necessary."

France has about 1,200 soldiers in the Multinational Force in Beirut.

"The replacement of the Multinational Force by the United Nations is a necessity if we want to avoid massacres," Mr. Mitterrand said.

Stressing that France has "no enemies in Lebanon," Mr. Mitterrand said France would remain "loyal" to the Lebanese president, Amin Gemayel, but noted that Mr. Gemayel's situation "is very compromised."

He said France has "cordial" relations with the leaders of all Lebanese factions.

For the first time, Mr. Mitterrand gave public praise to Nabih Berri, the leader of the Shi'ite Muslim forces that drove the Lebanese army from west Beirut last week.

"Those who won the battle for west Beirut, behind Nabih Berri... showed a great sense of responsibility," Mr. Mitterrand said.

Mr. Mitterrand also defended his decision to send 3,000 French troops into Chad last August to support Chad's President Hissene Habre against Libyan-backed rebels, saying the French presence was justified because "Libya occupies" the northern half of Chad.

He said the French troops were sent to Chad in response to "the general request of North Africa" and that no African nation wants "the Libyan army as its neighbour."

Mr. Mitterrand added that he was in telephone contact with the leaders of all sides.



A French soldier watches a Red Cross convoy of eight trucks as they cross Beirut's Green Line under French protection, Sunday after a week of heavy fighting had cut off west Beirut from the rest of Lebanon (AP wirephoto).

U.S. to provide new aid to Lebanon

LUXEMBOURG (R) — U.S. Vice-President George Bush announced Monday that the United States would provide new anti-terrorist aid to the Lebanese government.

He was speaking after a brief official visit to Luxembourg and before flying to Moscow for the funeral Tuesday of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov.

On Lebanon, Mr. Bush told a news conference he hoped other countries contributing to the Multinational Force in Beirut would join in the effort to combat terrorism.

"The Gemayel government has requested some help from the U.S. and they will get it," he said.

Mr. Bush said U.S. forces in Lebanon were being redeployed, not withdrawn, and anti-terrorist

training would be "going in" to the country.

He did not elaborate on the form the training would take or say who was behind terrorist acts, which he said were making peace in the Middle East very hard to achieve.

Mr. Bush said democratic countries would be the main force if they allowed their foreign policy to be influenced by international terrorists such as those who drove trucks laden with dynamite "with passports to heaven if you blow yourself up."

Mr. Bush said there had been an increase in international terrorism, culminating recently in the truck bombing of U.S. Marine headquarters in Beirut last October in which more than 200 Americans died.

He said diplomacy had been ineffective in fighting international terrorism and he was not naive enough to think it could easily be contained.

Mr. Bush, who visited Britain at the weekend, will go to Italy and France, the other two member countries of the Multinational Force, after the funeral in Moscow.

He said the future of the force and the Middle East situation generally would be the main topic when he visits Rome and Paris for talks with Prime Minister Bettino Craxi and President Francois Mitterrand.

On the planned anti-terrorist aid Mr. Bush said: "We would hope that others in the Multinational Force would join in that. Some have great expertise in it."

GCC chiefs-of-staff start 3-day meeting

DOHA (R) — The chiefs-of-staff of the six member countries of the Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) started a three-day meeting Monday with calls for more military co-operation to defend their oil-rich region from "nearby wars."

In his opening address, Qatar's chief-of-staff, Colonel Mubarak bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani, expressed hope that the meeting would adopt positive resolutions "to meet the aspirations of the governments and the peoples of the region for maintaining security."

The meeting, due to discuss an integrated defence strategy and joint military co-operation, is being held as Iraq and Iran report a serious flare-up to their 30-month-old Gulf war.

The GCC, set up more than two years ago to promote defence and economic integration, comprises Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Oman, Qatar and Bahrain.

Monday's session also heard a call by GCC Secretary-General Abdullah Yakoub Bishara for concerted efforts to achieve "self-reliance in military and other fields and to back words with deeds."

Newsweek says Gemayel, Assad agree to peace plan

NEW YORK (R) — Saudi officials say they have persuaded Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to accept a new eight-point peace plan in which he would yield to his adversaries' two main demands, according to Newsweek magazine.

The Saudi-proposed deal, Newsweek said in its latest issue, calls for Mr. Gemayel's government to renounce the May 17 withdrawal agreement with Israel and to offer Mr. Gemayel's Syrian-backed rivals a new power-sharing arrangement.

The magazine said Saudi Mediator Rafik Hariri arrived in Beirut with a half-page draft of the agreement last week, while Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud flew to Damascus with another copy.

The Saudi officials were quoted by Newsweek as saying that Syrian President Hafez Al Assad had agreed to the scheme and that they

were prepared to go ahead with it without approval from Washington.

Newsweek said U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz appeared reluctant to scrap the Lebanese-Israeli withdrawal agreement, but it quoted administration sources as saying he recognised that Mr. Gemayel may have no other way of surviving.

Newsweek said the plan also calls for the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

It said Israel may not go along with the agreement without an iron-clad guarantee that Mr. Assad will pull his 50,000 troops in Lebanon back to Syria.

It noted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir strongly hinted last week that Lebanese abrogation of the May 17 agreement would result in a permanent Israeli presence in southern Lebanon.

U.S. Marines in Beirut being reduced to 1,000 men

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — The U.S. Marines in Beirut are cutting their strength ashore to about 1,000 men — what will likely be the smallest American force before President Ronald Reagan's order for a complete pullback to 6th Fleet ships is fulfilled.

Jeeps and trucks stream in and out of the heavily fortified gate near the Beirut International Airport terminal, loaded with crates and boxes. Extra supplies, equipment and personal gear are being ferried by helicopter back aboard the U.S. navy ships off the coast.

In New York, Secretary of Defence Casper Weinberger said in a televised interview, "progress Sunday that 'a substantial number' of Marines will probably be withdrawn by the end of February — and it is possible that all" will be out within 30 days.

Here in Beirut, the former headquarters complex, next to the remains of the building destroyed by a truck-bomb Oct. 23, is nearly empty, with only a few Marines visible.

The curfew, part of a plan made long before Mr. Reagan's decision to withdraw America's contingent of the Multinational

Force in Lebanon to the ships, has meant pulling in the Marines' perimeter at the Beirut International Airport. Once deployed all the way around the runways, the Marines soon will hold only one side towards the beach, plus a short stretch across the south end of the main runway, according to Western military sources.

The withdrawal has been gradual, as fighting — and danger to Marines — has increased.

The Americans had maintained a peak of about 1,600 men ashore since they arrived in August 1982. First to go was the isolated company that held an area around the Lebanese University Science Centre about two kilometres east of the airport compound itself.

That company was separated from the main Marine compound by the Shi'ite quarter of Hay Al Sellum, and bordered both that village and the Lebanese army-Marine checkpoints on small roads. But as the militias fought the army, the Marines were repeatedly dragged in. The checkpoints were withdrawn, and finally the university centre was turned over to the Lebanese army last October.

Next came the order a few

weeks ago to thin out "support" personnel — the clerks, cooks, mechanics and other headquarters Marines backing up the "line" troops and making up almost half the 22nd Marine amphibious unit's 3,000-man strength. That redeployment to five navy ships offshore is almost complete.

That leaves about four companies of line troops at the airport, plus a reduced-down headquarters staff. A building complex at the airport used by the Marines since the first unit arrived here 18 months ago is being abandoned, and the company guarding it moved closer to the beach and away from most of the fighting among neighbouring Lebanese factions.

All the Marines now live in deep underground bunkers, built over the past weeks of sporadic shelling and fighting.

One platoon of about 65 Marines is stationed in downtown west Beirut, at the British and American embassies. There, the seafront Corniche Boulevard has been cut off by a cement wall at both ends of the embassy area.

Several amphibious armoured vehicles reinforce the Marines at the embassies, and a special "air

defence" unit has been set up with small anti-aircraft missiles on the roofs of the two main buildings. The move followed reports that radical Shi'ite might try to crash a plane loaded with explosives into the area.

When the final redeployment is ordered for the main Marine force, sources said the Marine platoon at the embassy would stay until and unless the embassy was completely abandoned. The diplomatic staff has been cut by about half, to approximately 50 people.

The "1,000-man plan," which keeps only line of combat troops and a minimum of staff and support workers on shore, will likely be retained until final withdrawal, a Western military source said. The complete withdrawal to the 6th Fleet ships offshore is not expected soon, however.

The Marine unit is scheduled to be replaced in April, when a new unit arrives, and the sources indicated that would be a good time to complete the pullout.

In Sunday's remarks, however, Mr. Weinberger said the Marines could return to the war-torn city, should circumstances change. Declaring that the "mandate" for the Multinational Force still exists,

he said the Marines "will go back to their original mission," if a new withdrawal agreement is struck among the conflicting parties.

Last week's takeover of West Beirut and the southern suburbs by Muslim and leftist militiamen and the disintegration of the Lebanese army is presenting the Marines with one problem they hadn't expected — what to do with the vast network of bunkers and fortifications of cement, barbed wire and millions of sandbags they have built.

The Marines have spent months fortifying the area they hold. High earthen barriers, reinforced with dozens of huge cement blocks line the airport road. Steel and cement double gates guard the main entrance. A tarmac parking lot, crossed Oct. 23 by the suicide truck-bomber on his bloody mission, is now blocked.

Each main position around the airport is deeply dug in, with thick observation and fighting posts of sandbags, tangles of barbed wire and bunkers.

If the Marines just abandon these positions, the surrounding militiamen will certainly take them over. Once in, they would be nearly impossible to dislodge.

Shamir: Israel part of any Mideast plan

TEL AVIV (AP) — On the eve of a summit meeting in Washington between leaders of the United States, Egypt and Jordan, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir warned that Israel could not be overlooked in any Middle East peace talks.

Speaking Sunday to activists of his Herut Party from the United States, Shamir said that "any debate on peace in the Middle East cannot be complete and practical without Israel's participation."

Mr. Shamir told his audience that any such debate would have to be based on the U.S.-sponsored 1979 Camp David peace agreement between Israel and Egypt. Mr. Shamir appeared to be signalling the Americans once again that Israel would reject any blueprint for peace based on President Reagan's 1982 Mideast proposals, calling the Camp David treaty "the only realistic plan."

The accord calls for Israel to grant Palestinians in the occupied West Bank autonomy during a five-year period. The Reagan plan calls for a Palestinian entity in the occupied West Bank in conjunction with Jordan.

Mr. Shamir's warning came after Israel reacted with anger in recent months to signs that both Egypt and Jordan were renewing

their ties with Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Mr. Shamir also appealed to the Soviet Union to join in direct peace talks with Israel, although the Soviets have said they would not renew their diplomatic ties with Israel until it returned the lands captured in 1967.

Mr. Shamir urged the post-Andropov leadership at the Kremlin to "revise their Mideast policy and reach the conclusion that a free and direct dialogue must be established" with Israel.

Referring to news reports that Syrian pressure may force Lebanese President Amin Gemayel to abrogate the 1983 treaty with Israel in order to stay in power, Mr. Shamir said Israel would view such a move "in the gravest light."

Cabinet Secretary Dan Meridor warned Sunday that cancellation of the agreement allowing Israel security guarantees in South Lebanon in return for an eventual Israeli withdrawal from the area, would be "a dangerous precedent to whomsoever wants to see the continuation of the peace process."

He denied reports that Lebanon or the United States had asked Israel for help in shoring up the Gemayel government.

Mr. Meridor spoke after the weekly cabinet meeting at which the ministers were briefed on options for a partial Israeli pullback in South Lebanon and began a wide-ranging reassessment of Israel's policy in Lebanon.

News reports here suggested three possible points to which Israel could withdraw from its current Awali River line north of Sidon, to lessen its casualties and lower its expenses. A pullback to the Zaharani River 12 kilometres to the south, a retreat to the Litani River 30 kilometres to the south, a withdrawal from Sidon, the port city where Israeli troops have come under particularly heavy commando attacks.

Shamir's popularity drops sharply

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's popularity has dropped sharply in the past month, a public opinion poll indicated Monday. The poll, published in the daily Haaretz, indicated that only 30.3 per cent of 1,200 adults polled thought Mr. Shamir was doing a good job at the end of January. This compared with 45.6 per cent in December.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

JORDAN TELEVISION	
MAIN CHANNEL	
17:30	Koran
17:45	Cartoons
18:05	Children's Programmes
19:00	Programmes Review
19:10	Programme on Sport
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Arabic Series
21:40	Local Programme
22:15	Cinema "84"
23:10	News in Arabic
FOREIGN CHANNEL	
18:00	French Programme
19:00	News in French
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Comedy: Barney Miller
21:10	Documentary: The Jewel in the Crown
22:00	News in English
22:15	Play of the Week: All for Love
RADIO JORDAN	
835 KHz. AM & 990 MHz. FM & partly on 560 KHz. SW	
07:00	Light Music
07:30	News Desk
08:00	Morning Show
10:00	News Summary
10:45	Instruments
11:00	Pop Session
12:00	News Summary
12:05	Pop Session
13:00	News Summary
13:05	Pop Session
14:00	News Bulletin
14:10	Instruments
14:30	Science Fiction
15:00	Comedy Hour
16:00	News Summary
16:05	Instruments
16:30	Old Favorites
17:00	Science Report
17:30	Pop Session
18:00	News Summary
18:05	Top Twenty
19:00	Newsdesk
19:30	Date with a Star
20:00	Evening Show
21:00	News Summary
21:05	Evening Show
21:55	News Summary
22:00	Evening Show
23:00	News Headlines
23:05	Evening Show
24:00	News Headlines
BBC WORLD SERVICE	
630, 720, 1413 KHz	
06:00 Newsdesk 06:30 Rock back the Clock 06:45 Financial News 06:55 Reflections 07:00 World News 07:45 24 Hours 08:00 World News 08:45 Arthur Rubinstein 09:05 The World Today 09:30 Newsdesk 09:30 Anything for a Laugh 09:40 World News 09:50 24 Hours 10:00 World News 10:30 Classical Record Review 09:45 Network U.K. 10:00 World News 10:00 Reflections 10:15 After Hours 10:30 The Committee 11:00 World News 11:00 British Press Review 11:15 The World Today 11:30 Financial News 11:40 Look Ahead 11:45 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues 12:00 Discovery 12:30 The Tone Poets 12:40 World News 12:50 News about Britain 13:15 Letter from London 13:25 Scotland This Week 13:30 Sports International 14:00 Radio Newsworld 14:15 Women of the World 14:45 Sports Round-up 15:00 World News 15:00 24 Hours: News Summary 15:30 Sports Round-up 15:30 World News 16:30 Sherlock Holmes 17:00 Radio Newsworld 17:15 Outlook 18:00 World News 18:00 Commentary 18:15 Talking about Music 18:45 The World Today 19:00 World News 19:00 Meridian 19:40 Scotland This Week 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 World News 20:30 Nature Notebook 20:40 The Farming World 21:00 Outlook: News Summary 21:30 Stock Market Report 21:45 Look Ahead 21:45 Let There Be Drums 22:00 World News 22:00 24 Hours: News Summary 22:30 Alexis Korner's Rhythm and Blues 22:45 Women of the World 23:15 Letters from London 23:25 Paperback Choices 23:30 London's Concert Tradition 24:00 World News 06:00 The World Today 06:25 Scotland This Week 06:30 Financial News 06:45 Reflections 06:55 Sports Round-up 07:00 World News 07:00 Commentary 07:15 After Hours 07:30 Meridian	
VOICE OF AMERICA	
MW 1260, SW 7200, 9565, 11740, 11925 and 15210 KHz	
06:00 VOA Morning: News on the hour; news summaries; daily business report; science and medicine; sports reports; VOA editorial and world and U.S. opinion roundups; documentary; viewpoints, features 17:00 News 17:10 Newsline 17:30 Special English News and Features 18:00 News 18:10 Focus	

TODAY'S EVENTS	
EXHIBITIONS	
* "Orientalist" original paintings, at the Asia Art Gallery.	
* Photos of Jordan by Mr. Jodi Cobb at the Hotel Jordan International at 5:00 p.m.	
* "French paintings" by Father Beaudouin at the Marriott Hotel at 6:00 p.m.	
FILM	
* "Tintin" starts at 4:00 p.m. at the French Cultural Centre.	
CULTURAL CENTRES	
Royal Cultural Centre Tel. 6610267 American Centre 44371 American Centre Library 41520 British Council 36147-8 French Cultural Centre 37009 Goethe Institute 41993 Soviet Cultural Centre 44303 Spanish Cultural Centre 24049 Turkish Cultural Centre 39777 Haya Arts Centre 665195 Hussein Youth City 667181 Y.W.C.A. 41793 Y.W.M.C.A. 664251 Amman Municipal Library 36111 University of Jordan Library 843555	
MUSEUMS	
Folklore Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also mosaics from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51760. Jordan Archaeological Museum: Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Crusader Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Jordan National Gallery: Contains a collection of paintings, ceramics, and sculptures by contemporary Jordanian artists from most of the Muslim countries and a collection of paintings by 19th Century orientalist artists. Muntazah, Jabal	
Luwatibah. Opening hours: 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30124. Martyr's Memorial (Military Museum): Collection of military memorabilia dating from the Arab Revolt of 1916. Sports City, Amman. Opening hours: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Closed Saturdays. Tel. 664240. Popular Life of Jordan Museum: 100 to 150 year old items such as costumes, weapons, musical instruments, etc. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 37169.	
SERVICE CLUBS	
Lions Amman Club. Meetings every first and third Wednesday at the Tyche Hotel, 130 p.m. Lions Philadelphia Club. Meetings every second and fourth Wednesday at the Amman Marriott Hotel, 130 p.m. Philadelphia Rotary Club. Meetings every Wednesday at the Holiday Inn, 130 p.m.	
CHURCHES	
St. Joseph Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Amman, tel. 24590. Church of the Annunciation (Roman Catholic) Jabal Luwatibah, 37440. Be In Safe Church (Roman Catholic) Jabal Hussein, 661757. Church of the Assumption (Greek Orthodox) Abdali, 23545. Anglican Church (Church of the Redeemer) Jabal Amman, 41559. Armenian Catholic Church Ashrafieh, 71331. Armenian Orthodox Church Ashrafieh, 73251. St. Ephraim Church (Syrian Orthodox) Ashrafieh, 71751. Armenian International Church (Inter-denominational): meets at Southern Baptist School in Shamsiyyat, 665249.	
PRAYER TIMES	
06:45 Fajr 06:21 (Shamra) Shuruq 11:00 Dhahar 14:56 'Asr 17:30 Maghrib 18:45 Isha	

AMMAN AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Airia information department at the Queen Alia International Airport tel. (08) 53250, where it should always be verified.	
ARRIVALS	
07:05	Cairo (MS)
07:05	Agaba (RJ)
07:15	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:20	Kuwait (Tusidat) (RJ)
07:30	Jeddah (RJ)
07:40	Dhahran, Kuwait (RJ)
08:00	Cairo (RJ)
08:00	Damascus (RJ)
08:00	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
08:00	Dhahran, Riyadh (Saudi) (RJ)
08:00	Kuwait (KU)
08:00	Cairo (RJ)
08:00	Bucharest, Izmail (RJ)
08:00	Larnaca (RJ)
08:00	Amsterdam (KLM)
08:15	New York, Vienna (RJ)
08:20	Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)
08:30	Baghdad (IA)
08:35	London, Paris (RJ)
08:40	Tripoli (RJ)
08:45	Cairo (MS)
08:50	Athens (OA)
08:50	Rome, Damascus (Alitalia)
08:50	Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
08:50	Cairo (RJ)
08:50	Baghdad (RJ)
09:00	Cairo (MS)
DEPARTURES:	
06:45	Cairo (RJ)
06:50	Damascus (RJ)
06:50	Damascus, Frankfurt (LH)
07:00	Agaba (RJ)
07:00	Kuwait (MS)
07:00	Tripoli (RJ)
07:00	Cairo (RJ)
07:00	Bucharest, Izmail (RJ)
07:00	Larnaca (RJ)
07:00	Amsterdam (KLM)
07:15	New York, Vienna (RJ)
07:20	Frankfurt, Damascus (RJ)
07:30	Baghdad (IA)
07:35	London, Paris (RJ)
07:40	Tripoli (RJ)
07:45	Cairo (MS)
07:50	Athens (OA)
07:50	Rome, Damascus (Alitalia)
07:50	Frankfurt, Damascus (LH)
07:50	Cairo (RJ)
07:50	Baghdad (RJ)
08:00	Cairo (MS)
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
As a cold front approaches Jordan, it will be cold, partly cloudy to cloudy with rain, and there will be snowfall in the hilly regions. Winds will be westerly moderate to fresh. In Agaba, it will be partly cloudy, with scattered showers. Southerly winds will be freshening at times and the seas wavy.	
Low/high temperature in deg.C.	
Amman	7/8
Agaba	8/18
Dera	21/11
Jordan Valley	7/17
Yesterday's high temperatures:	
Amman 9.5, Agaba 19.2, Humidity readings: Amman 40 per cent, Agaba 34 per cent.	

EMERGENCIES	
Ambulance 193, 75111 Fire, fire, police 199 Blood bank 75121 Civil Defence rescue 66111 Fire headquarters 22090-3 Police rescue 192, 21111, 37777 Police headquarters 39141 Traffic police 56390-1 Electric Power Co. 36381-2 Municipal water service 71125-8 Queen Alia Int. Airport (08) 53333	
HOSPITALS	
Hussein Medical Centre 81381-32 Khalid Maternity, J. Amman 44281-4 Akhila Maternity, J. Amman 42362 Madhat, J. Amman 42362 Lebanese Int. Hospital 664171-4 Palestine, Shamsi 664171-4 Shamsi Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Dar Al-Shifa, J. Hussein 667158 Al-Musharraf Hospital 667227-9 The Islamic, Abdali 665292 Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164 Italian, Al-Mohajreen 77101-3 Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 75111 Anay, Marka 91611	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN: Dr. Ramzi Mizawi 94789, 25809	
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in ffs per kg.	
Apple (Double Red)	450/400
Apple (Golden)	450/400
Apple (Spartan)	450/400
Apple (Smith)	450/400
Apple (Local)	220/180
Banana	280/240
Banana (Mukammer)	240/210
Cabbage	280/240
Carrot	140/110
Cauliflower (white)	70/50
Cucumber (large)	170/120
Cucumber (small)	250/200
Dates	180/150
Eggplant (large)	100/70
Eggplant (small)	140/100
Figs	400/300
Garlic	320/240
Grapes (white)	700/600
Grapes (black)	700/600
Grapefruit	90/60
Guava	400/300
Lemon	130/100
Marrow (large)	90/60
Marrow (small)	140/110
Melion	160/130
Onion (dry)	350/220
Olive	150/100
Oranges (Abn Surra)	240/180
Oranges (Shamouti)	180/130
Pears	800/750
Pepper (sweet)	480/440
Pepper (hot green)	520/480
Potatoes	220/180

Cabinet endorses land sale death sentences

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has approved the military court verdicts sentencing to death in absentia 20 people from the occupied West Bank after they had been convicted of selling lands to the Israeli enemy.

The cabinet also confirmed that all their moveable and immovable property should be confiscated and, again in line with the military court judgement, considered the sales null and void.

In trying the original case, the military court had acquitted the three other defendants.

Those sentenced to death were Naser Mas'oud Al Shunnar, Jamal Odeh Abu Wardah, Mohammad Jameel Bal'awi and Yusef Soudah all from Tulkarem, and Mohammad Salem Mohammad Arab Al Bassa, also known as Mohammad Salem Al Hweiti, Sa'id Abdul Fattah Mas'oud, Amneh Mohammad Abdel Rahman Al Dweila, Fathia Abdul Fattah Mas'oud Sa'id Ibrahim all from the neighbouring town of Danna.

Also sentenced to death by the military court were Ahmad Hamdan Hamdan Al Fakaha, also known as Al Breini, Hassan Hamdan Hamdan Al Fakaha Yusef Shu'eh and Mahmoud Kayed Thutheia all from Kufrelabad in Tulkarem and Ahmad Anes Jaradat from Jenin and Mohammad Mubashir Daud Hawwash, Mohammad Yusef Amin Mohammad Amin and Subhi Amin Qamhawi from Nablus. Ghazi Mohammad Badawi Awad from Awarta near Nablus and Fayez Yusef Mahmoud Mustafa from the Balata refugee camp in Nablus were also sentenced to death.

The court acquitted Rabab Fahim Ahmad Al Qadhi Al Sarghail, and Fareed Sa'id Al Qarout from Tulkarem and Rashad Sa'id Hawwash from Nablus.

A special court to try those suspected of selling land to Israel was formed in 1973 after which a special law for the prevention of land sales to Israel was passed in June 1973, making the death penalty mandatory for such transgressions. The purpose of these are to prohibit the sale of lands to Israel either directly or through brokers.

Before this law was issued, those selling land to Israel were sentenced to 10 year imprisonment with hard labour.

Talks with E.C. seek greater energy links

AMMAN (Petra) — Economic talks between Jordan and a visiting European Community (E.C.) delegation, which arrived Sunday night, began Monday at the National Planning Council (NPC).

Discussions dealt with Jordanian-E.C. relations as well as projects being implemented in Jordan with E.C. contributions in the agriculture, education and vocational training fields. Projects which the E.C. can contribute to in the future were also reviewed.

The Jordanian side at the talks was led by NPC President Omar Abdullah Jakhnan while the E.C. team was led by head of its Middle East department Robert Bisio.

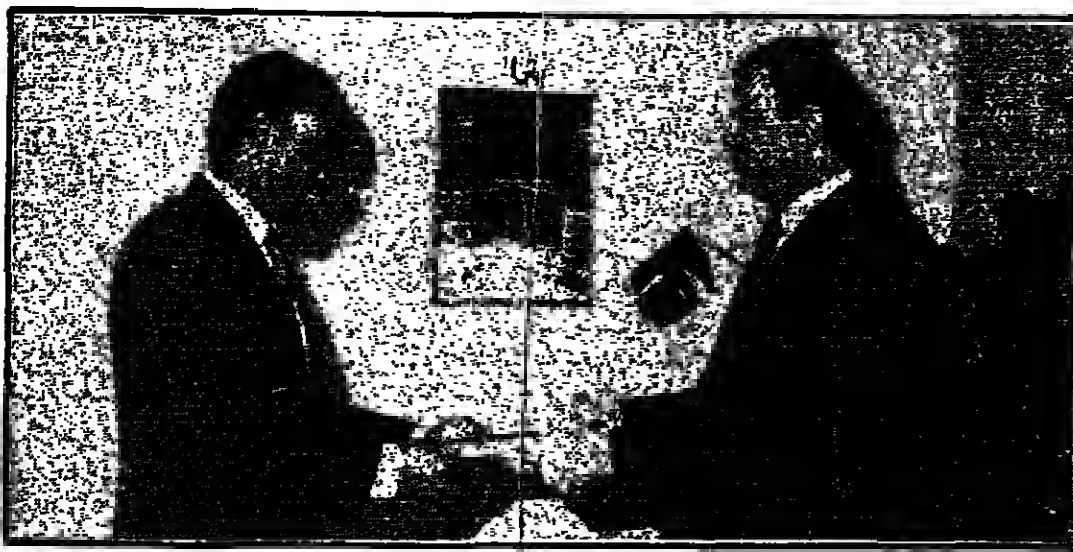
Meanwhile, the E.C. delegation Monday paid a visit to the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA), where it met JEA director-general, Dr. Hisham Khatib, Vocational Training Corporation Director-General Munther Al

Masri, Marwan Bushnaq the technical manager at the Jordanian Electric Power Company (JEPCO), director of the solar energy research centre at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), production department manager at the NPC and senior JEA officials.

The delegation was briefed on energy and electricity programmes in Jordan in general and on JEA projects and activities in particular. They also exchanged views on the possibility of strengthening co-operation between Jordan and the E.C. in the fields of energy and technology transfer.

The delegation was accompanied during the visit by Jordanian Ambassador to Belgium Hassan Abu Ne'ma.

Later on in the visit, the delegation is scheduled to pay field visits to inspect a number of the joint projects.



CREDENTIALS PRESENTED: Foreign Minister Taher Masi (right) receives in his office Monday morning the non-resident ambassador from Guinea, Amirov Diallo, and a copy of his credentials (Petra photo)

Father Bezdikian exhibition to open today

AMMAN (J.T.) — An exhibition of paintings by prominent Franco-American artist Father Bezdikian will be opened Tuesday at 6 p.m. under the patronage of Minister of Culture, Youth and Antiquities Abdullah 'Obeidat at the Amman Marriott Hotel.

Father Bezdikian is famous for his French verisimilitude paintings from the avant garde period, and his distinctive style of painting and mode of expression.

The exhibition, which will include 50 pieces of art, was organised by the French Cultural Centre in co-operation with the Marriott Hotel. The exhibition will be open to the public until Tuesday, Feb. 21.



Father Bezdikian

Hassan visits projects run by retired officers

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Monday made a field tour of a number of the retired army officers' corporation projects and met retired officers working on these projects.

Prince Hassan expressed his appreciation to those in charge of the noticeable effort made by retired military officers to develop

the corporation and its productive projects. He also affirmed that the corporation's credibility is the factor which makes Arab and local financial institutions co-operate with it.

Prince Hassan also called on officials in charge of the corporation's projects to give priority to productive projects in new areas where retired officers live.

'Obeidat receives UAE envoy, societies board

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat Monday received United Arab Emirates Ambassador to Jordan Abdullah Al Shurafa. During the meeting, relations between Jordan and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) were reviewed.

Dr. 'Obeidat later received in his office members of the executive board of the General Union of Voluntary Societies in Jordan.

During the meeting they reviewed the progress of voluntary work and the activities and services they perform in Jordan in co-ordination with Ministry of Social Development.

Members of the executive board thanked the government for its interest in this humanitarian sector and congratulated Mr. 'Obeidat on his appointment as prime minister.

Phosphate output grows by nearly 70 per cent

AMMAN (J.T.) — Production at the phosphate mines during January reached 442,051 tons as compared to 260,113 tons during the same month last year.

According to officials at the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPVC), production at the Ruseifa mine was 601,118 tons. Al Hassa produced 214,056 tons and Al Abiad mine yielded 167,877 tons. The quality of phosphate here is one of the highest in the world registering around 68-75 per cent purity, according to the same official.

Phosphate exports during the same month amounted to 266,000 tons as compared to 218,000 tons during the same month last year.

As for quantities transported from all mines, these amounted to 431,514 tons of which 389,200 tons were for the Jordanian Fertilisers Industry company as compared to 64,652 tons during the said month last year.

Sunday, officials announced that JPVC last year sold 3.7 million tons of phosphate worth JD 57 million, making a profit of JD 8 million.

WHO health care workshop helps raise standards

By Anne Counsell
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Participants in a symposium on "Continuing Health and Medical Care" held an evening workshop at the University of Jordan Faculty of Medical Sciences Monday as part of their five-day programme which started Sunday.

The symposium, organised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) and sponsored by the University of Jordan's centre for developing human resources in the health field, aims to train the people responsible for health in Jordan in order to promote a high standard of health, according to Dr. Kandil Shaker, an organiser from the university's centre for development.

In an interview with the Jordan Times, Dr. Shaker said "the subject of discussion during the symposium is the continuing education of health workers."

"The emphasis is on continuing or life-long training of all persons connected with medical care so that health workers can maintain and improve their skills, standards, knowledge and attitudes in performing their essential job of providing health services to the people."

Dr. Shaker said that the seminars are directed at any worker in the field of health, including nurses, doctors, pharmacists, sanitation technicians and specialists, concerned with all aspects of health care and that the subject of continuing health education is

being regarded as a total topic of interest to all participants no matter what their particular specialisation.

"The long-term policy of continuing health education is of great importance to all," said Dr. Shaker.

Informal discussions

Representatives from the faculties of medicine, nursing and pharmacy at the University of Jordan, the Ministry of Health, the Armed Forces Royal Medical Services, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the Ministry of Education and the Jordanian Medical Association are taking part in a series of informal workshops and discussions on the subject in which their own personal experiences and views contribute towards a better understanding and also contribute to the learning process.

Dr. Shaker said that, because everyone is involved and actively participating in the symposium, it has more to offer to the individual and also a lot can be gained through the co-operation and exchanges involved.

During Monday's workshop the participants divided into five groups to discuss and evaluate problems in various aspects of health, and to devise continuing objectives and plans in those fields taking into consideration all the aspects and needs involved.

All the subjects discussed, the said, are of importance to Jordan, and they included: Pre-natal care;

Undergraduates list complaints at open meeting

Yarmouk students call for better academic conditions

By Lamis K. Andoni
and Saleem B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporters

IRBID — Students at Yarmouk University Monday called on the administration to improve the academic conditions and lower the pass average from its "high level" of 70 per cent to reduce the number of students being expelled.

The students were talking at an open meeting held at the university's gymnasium between the university administration, and the engineering and medical sciences faculty students. The meeting came in the aftermath of student demonstrations last week that erupted as a result of an administrative decision to expel 470 students who failed to attain the accumulative pass average.

The uproar in the university calmed down only when the administration decided to allow 400 of the students concerned to continue their studies and to open a dialogue with them. In addition to that, a task force comprising faculty representatives from the university's four faculties was formed to study the student's demands.

Many of the expelled students who thought they could register as private students were Monday disappointed to find out that only those who had attained an average of 65 per cent or above could do so. Students complained that the administration was not accurate when the decision to allow the expelled students to register was announced. President of the university, Dr. Adnan Badran, disagreed and told the Jordan Times that the original decision was to give the chance to dismissed students whose average is not below 65 per cent to register as private students.

During Monday's meeting, many students who spoke called for a lower pass average to appease them from their colleagues who filled the stadium. A student from the faculty of medical sciences pointed out that other universities in the world have a lower passing average and stressed that the top priority of the university should be education itself and not grades. The students also came out with a number of suggestions to improve the academic regulations and the students' counselling and advisory system, they said.

Several students interviewed by the Jordan Times complained that advisors are not of much help to students. Dr. Adnan Dakkouri, dean of the department of pharmacy, who was appointed as the chairman of the task force com-

mittee told the Jordan Times later that the university will study the possibility of improving the advisory system. He explained that the university does not have counsellor offices that are connected to the different departments. "The advisors are usually faculty members who are supposed to orient students," he said.

During Monday's session, several students complained about the inavailability of badly needed books at the university bookshop. Some students were very critical of "the university's policy that aims at achieving high standards but does not secure the necessary academic conditions."

"In order to achieve high standards, the professors should be qualified as well," one of the students said.

The president of the university and the task force committee members took notes while student after student took to the forum to voice his or her complaints or suggestions. The students then submitted their suggestions in writing to the chairman of the task force committee who promised that they will be extensively studied and seriously considered by the university administration.

Some students said that this step "might be a little too late since many students had lost their seats already," Dr. Dakkouri, however, said that expelled students have had the chance to transfer to other specialisations when they found out that their performances were not up to the required standards. "They could have avoided the expulsion," he said.

Moreover, the first decision was misread: the number that appeared on the bulletin board stating that 470 students were expelled was misunderstood since many of these students were not dismissed from the university but only from the faculties and departments," he added. Dr. Dakkouri explained that students who were dismissed from their faculties can apply to other faculties in accordance with their high school governmental exam average.

Students who are accepted at Yarmouk University usually have good high-school averages. An

economics student, who was expelled and not allowed to re-register as a private student because his average was 64 per cent, told the Jordan Times that it is already too late for students to apply to other faculties this semester. The student, who was in his second year when he was expelled and who had a high average of 83 per cent at the high school governmental exam, said he will have to join the army to do his national service for two years and only then can resume his studies.

The laws governing national service stipulate that any Jordanian male born after 1958 should join the army for two years. The law, however, allows students to finish their university studies first, but if a male student quits his studies for a certain period of time, he has to begin compulsory service.

The student's weakness in the English language, the medium of instruction for scientific subjects at the university, was cited by a number of the expelled students as a major reason for their failure. The students said that the level of English at the language centre at the university is "weak" and not taught in accordance with their different fields of specialisation. "It is true we are taught English at the centre, but once we get to a lecture, we find ourselves at a complete loss with regards to the scientific terminology used," he said.

The Jordan Times approached Dr. Badran with this specific student's claim. He replied: "We will work on making the English courses relevant to the fields of the specialisation of the students."

Yet another social dimension of the students at the university was noted when students said "the difficult system" at the university "hurts students who come from poor families the most. Wealthy students can seek a higher education abroad regardless of their average, but we strive to obtain high averages to enroll at local universities," an expelled student said. "Where can I go now?" he asked.

Dr. Dakkouri, who collected all the students' complaints and suggestions said that the task force committee will study all of the suggestions including those related to different aspects of life within the campus. "The task force will submit its recommendations to the university administration," he said. Dr. Dakkouri expressed optimism that the dialogue between the administration and the students will bring "fruitful results."

Smart police work solves thefts

AMMAN (J.T.) — The police last week arrested two gangs of robbers who had committed several thefts in the Shmeisani and Um Uthaina areas of the capital, according to a report in the Al Ra'i Arabic daily newspaper.

The first band comprised two people identified only as Mohammed A.K.H., 22, and Ahmad Sh., 21, who helped rob more than 12 houses, two of which were owned by their relatives, a police spokesman said.

Both thieves knew each other when they were students at the Schneller School, but did not stay in contact, only meeting again at a cafe in Amman, he said. They stole jewelry valued at several thousands of Jordanian dinars in addition to large amounts of the cash, the spokesman said.

The second band also comprised of two thieves, identified only as A.J. and J.M. who were also arrested last week only 12 hours after breaking into a house in Um Uthaina.

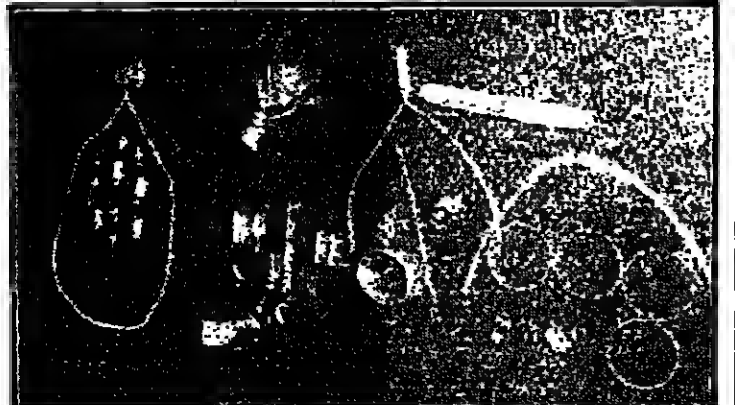
The owners of the house had left for the evening, finding upon their return at midnight, that they

had been burgled. The contents of one of the bedrooms was strewn around and jewels and a pistol were discovered by the inhabitants to be missing.

The police discovered that the criminals had used the correct key to the door in gaining entrance. Therefore they went to the man's place of work the following day and, after interrogating his work-

mates, arrested, A.J. who confessed to the deed.

Later, Director of Amman Police Nasouh Stuyeduddin called on all citizens not to leave their keys lying around either at home or at work. He also paid tribute to the efforts exerted by the police officers and the criminal research police in the case who solved the crime.



The jewels and pistol which were taken by the second gang from a house in Amman.

MPs seek to oil wheels of democracy

By Ibrahim Noori
Reuters

AMMAN — Parliamentary life has returned here after a 11-year lapse, bringing with it calls for the repeal of martial law and more freedom.

Deputies made these and other demands, including an amnesty for prisoners and less stringent curbs on travel from the Israeli-occupied West Bank, when they debated the policies of the new government recently.

This was believed to be the first time such calls had been made in public since the imposition of martial law on the outbreak of the 1967 Arab-Israeli war, political sources said.

His Majesty King Hussein recalled the Lower House of Parliament on January 5 when he dissolved the nominated National Consultative Council, which had functioned as an interim parliament since 1975.

Some Jordanians had hoped that the King would go the full way in restoring parliamentary life by

ending martial law as well. But Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, who is also the chief martial law administrator, told the house he had no such plans.

Some political sources say Jordan is politically and militarily too vulnerable to lower its defences, including martial law.

A single special court in Amman is now the only visible sign of martial law, however.

Lawyers say 90 per cent of all cases are handled by civilian courts independently of the martial law court, which deals mainly with anti-state activities, corruption, drug offences and violations of price ceilings.

Yusef Al Adhem was among three deputies to speak against martial law.

"We ask the honourable government to expand the climate for more responsible freedom... and to repeal the martial law," Mr.

Adhem said. The Defence Law of 1935 should also be scrapped because it has been superseded by other laws, he added.

Lawyers say the Defence Law still governs much of the country's administration. It was one of the key laws promulgated after 1923, when Britain recognised Transjordan as an independent state under Prince Abdullah, King Hussein's grandfather.

Mr. 'Obeidat said he had no intention of abolishing martial law and that the martial law court was doing a fine job. But, he said, there were plans to set up a military appeals court.

Two West Bank deputies sought pardons for prisoners, but Mr. 'Obeidat said an amnesty would benefit only "thieves and embezzlers". Curbs on West Bankers travelling to the East Bank were aimed directly at Israel's policy of "emptying the occupied territory of its people," he added.

Mr. 'Obeidat pledged a clean administration and said "the wheels of democracy" would be pushed forward. Parliament will be at full strength after March 12, when the first elections since 1967 fill eight vacant East Bank seats.

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Chernenko's new task

KREMLINOLOGISTS have had a day (or two) trying to figure out who Yuri Andropov's successor might be. Konstantin Chernenko had obviously been one of the most likely candidates to win the job, and, true to expectations, he has now been duly elected Soviet Communist Party chief and consequently Moscow's top leader.

Now what? Will the change in Moscow signify a shift in Soviet attitudes, towards détente or the arms race, towards the world economy and technology, Afghanistan or the Middle East? Was there more than a power struggle among the Soviet leaders to elect a leader? And if so, was there a rift, and how deep?

Considering that the Soviet Union has maintained a principled, rather than a tactical, position vis-a-vis the Middle East throughout the years, these questions would be more pertinent to analysts and politicians in the West than to us here. But that does not of course mean that we should not be interested in the West and the East trying to establish normal relations between them and building a more conducive atmosphere for world stability and peace.

Whether or not Mr. Chernenko is a member of the "old guard," or his ascendancy to power came as a "win" against the Andropov line, is not really the most important point. Our greatest consideration remains that for working with the Soviet Union, as a superpower and a friend, towards achieving the honourable and lasting peace in this part of the world that all seek.

To this end, we hope that the new Soviet leader will step up his country's efforts to work with the International community, especially the United States, towards finding global solutions for the Palestinian problem and others in a spirit of co-operation and friendship.

Dialogue, with full respects paid to the rights and interests of others, is an essential element for international understanding and co-existence. Let us hope that the new Soviet leader will encounter success in whatever endeavours his country might want to make to attain peace and progress.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: U.S. policies result in suffering

THE DEVELOPMENTS in the Lebanese crisis are continually proving the U.S. failure not only in honouring its commitments towards Lebanon but also in achieving a reasonable way of pulling out of that country. Its failure to bring peace to Lebanon caused it to get further involved in the quagmire despite the advice of its European partners. Furthermore the U.S. is now trying to blame others for the escalation of tension in Lebanon instead of forcing its ally, Israel, into pulling its troops from southern Lebanon.

The Reagan administration sent its troops to Lebanon to serve in peacekeeping role, but soon found it transformed into yet another militia force fighting alongside the government against all other opposition groups. This has further complicated the situation and pushed Lebanon to the brink of total collapse. At the same time the U.S. has allowed Israel to have a free hand in the south where it has been consolidating its positions and watching the developments inside Lebanon from a distance. U.S. policies in Lebanon, together with its support for Israel's invasion of that country, were instrumental in bringing about this disaster to Lebanon and sufferings to its people.

Al Dustour: Reagan's unenviable position

THE UNITED STATES will again be put to the test as to its real intentions towards the Middle East when His Majesty King Hussein meets President Reagan in Washington. In fact, following the recent developments in the Middle East, the U.S. ought to re-consider its difficult position and conduct a comprehensive re-evaluation of its policies towards the countries of this region. Washington's failure to stop the building of settlements in the occupied territories, its condoning of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and its recent strategic alliance with the Zionist state have placed the Reagan administration in an unenviable position and caused it to lose all chances of establishing a real peace.

Now that the United States has lost all its credibility in the region, it is incumbent upon it, as a superpower, to try to remedy the situation. It must adopt an unbiased and constructive attitude if it wants to qualify again to play a serious role in establishing peace in this region. The U.S. above all must recognise the rights of the Palestinian people in their homeland and must listen to King Hussein's views towards this issue and thus try to seize the opportunity to act constructively.

Savt Al Shaab: A dangerous development

THE MAD war being waged against Iraq by the Iranian regime is now assuming new destructive proportions. The Iranians are committing suicide en masse following their failure to penetrate Iraq's strong defensive lines and to achieve the goals of the Iranian rulers. Iran's move to shell innocent civilians in Iraq can only be construed as an admission of total failure on the battlefield and can only be described as a racist and fascist-like attempt to impose the Tehran regime's will on its Arab neighbour.

The Gulf war has proved that none of the participants can achieve total victory over the other by sheer military might. Therefore Iraq has sought to end the war by peaceful negotiations in a bid to save the lives of innocent people on both sides. In return, Iran has continued to hit civilian targets in total disregard of international principles and laws. The transformation of this war into one against the civilian population and economic infrastructure in both countries is a very serious development, and all Muslims around the world should take action aimed at ending it.

Chernenko — an old fashioned ideologist

By Mark Wood
Reader

MOSCOW — Konstantin Chernenko, named Monday General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU), rose to prominence as a close aide to the late President Leonid Brezhnev and after his death seemed destined for political obscurity.

Mr. Chernenko, 72, of Siberian peasant stock, was Mr. Brezhnev's office manager and chief of staff for 21 years before he was promoted to full politburo membership in 1978 and began a rapid ascent to become the leader's heir-apparent.

But after Mr. Brezhnev's death in November 1982 he lost the succession to Yuri Andropov. In the following months he disappeared from sight and appeared to be losing his authority and influence in the Kremlin.

Mr. Chernenko, a white-haired man with a chubby, round face, bounced back unexpectedly last summer when he appeared as the main speaker after Mr. Andropov at a CPSU Central Committee plenum and subsequently resumed a more prominent role.

"The impression is that Mr. Andropov was moving to downgrade him and ease him out, but that the powerful old guard in the party fought a rearguard action to shore up his position," one Western diplomat said.

Most analysts say Mr. Chernenko appeared to have become a symbol and rallying point for a cross-section of party and state officials who opposed Mr. Andropov's push for moderate reforms and a purge of long-serving administrators.

At 72 he is the oldest man to take the leading position in the Soviet Union and like Mr. Andropov he has a record of poor health.

Last spring his office said he was off sick with a cold but informed Soviet sources said he was bed-ridden for three or four weeks with pneumonia.

Mr. Chernenko's speeches and writings have firmly conveyed the image of an old-fashioned ideologist suspicious of new ideas in economics or the arts and convinced that the present Soviet system is in no need of change.

He has relatively little experience of foreign affairs but during the Brezhnev years was a staunch supporter of détente with the West.

In the introduction to a book to be published in Britain next month he returned to this theme, saying he wanted "a fruitful dialogue with nations living under a different system to ours, the United States and Great Britain in particular."

Of all the candidates to succeed Mr. Andropov, he was the only one with no experience of industrial management or regional administration. Almost his entire career has been as a party bureaucrat with a flair for organisational work.

"Chernenko is known as a man whose instinct is to say 'no' to innovation and to oppose anything that smacks to him of liberalism," one informed Soviet official said.

U.S. analyst Terry McNeill wrote that "his concept of government... seems to owe more to standard primers of ideological rectitude than to any practical understanding of the problems of

running a country of the size and complexity of the Soviet Union."

Others said Mr. Chernenko may be no more than a suitable figurehead for a group of largely elderly party men who would hope to influence his leadership.

Mr. Chernenko has been a prolific writer on ideological affairs, producing books and articles of immense length that contrasted with the concise, clear-cut style of Mr. Andropov.

In his public appearances he has emerged as a poor speaker, frequently stumbling over the text and swallowing words.

His most recent major policy statement was a hard-line edict on culture issued at last June's plenum in which he condemned young Russians attracted to Western music and ideas and denounced liberal trends in the cinema and theatre.

"Certain film-makers and authors sometimes put to the forefront only unhappy destinies, the troubles of life, loose and whining characters," he complained.

"But man, particularly a young man, needs an ideal embodying noble goals in life! Ideological convictions, industry and fortitude," he said.

After his speech the authorities clamped down on Western influences, closing discotheques, ordering rock groups to tone down their acts and foreign theatres to cut out more avant-garde productions.

Mr. Chernenko has always taken a strong political approach to economic questions as well.

When commenting on the poor performance of Soviet agriculture in the late 1970s, he declared that what was needed was more org-

anisation and ideological work in the countryside to instil the right attitudes in the peasantry.

He has also proved a conservative in his attitude towards internal party affairs. In a speech he gave on the nomination of Mr. Andropov as party chief, he advised the new leader to "observe respect for cadres", meaning no sackings.

Western diplomats said this attitude had played a major role in propelling him to power, particularly in the wake of Mr. Andropov's campaign to purge old and corrupt officials.

"He has won support in the party for two reasons: He represents the cautious attitude of those who do not like tinkering with the system and he opposes firing men who have served the party well in senior posts," one diplomat said.

Some analysts said his support may have been swelled by suspicions that the Andropov team was moving towards reforms that could create a less egalitarian society with qualified and good workers earning much more than the broad mass.

Konstantin Ustinovich Chernenko was born on Sept. 24, 1911, in the small Siberian village of Bolshaya Tyas in the Krasnoyarsk region and left school at the age of 12.

He joined the Communist Party in 1931 while doing military service and returned to his native region as a propagandist, becoming a regional secretary in charge of ideology during World War II.

After a two-year course at a party school in Moscow he was sent to Penza in central Russia and then to the south-western republic

of Moldavia in 1948.

It was there that he started to work with Leonid Brezhnev, then Moldavian Party chief, in 1951 and cemented a relationship that was ultimately to bring him to top reaches of Soviet power.

His further promotion hindered by his lack of education, Mr. Chernenko took courses at a teachers' college in Kishinev and graduated in 1953 at the age of 42.

Mr. Brezhnev brought him to Moscow three years later to work in the party's agitation and propaganda department and when he took the title of head of state in 1960 he made Mr. Chernenko chief of the secretariat.

Mr. Brezhnev became party leader in 1964 after ousting Nikita Khrushchev and put Mr. Chernenko in charge of the party General Department, where he had control over politburo business and party files.

For 14 years his principal job was organising the agenda and working papers of the weekly politburo meetings and arranging Mr. Brezhnev's working schedule.

He was made a full member of the central committee in 1971, was promoted to candidate (non-voting) membership of the politburo in 1977 and full membership a year later.

Within three years Mr. Chernenko was regularly appearing at Mr. Brezhnev's side during meetings with foreign leaders and his position in politburo line-ups showed he had overleaped over more senior colleagues to become one of the top four men.

The eclipse of his rival, Andrei Kirilenko, and death of chief ideologist Mikhail Suslov left Mr. Chernenko with the field clear for

the succession until Mr. Andropov emerged as a powerful rival six months before Mr. Brezhnev's death.

Once Mr. Andropov was general secretary, Mr. Chernenko lost his post as head of the General Department and took over Mr. Suslov's vacant post as chief ideologist.

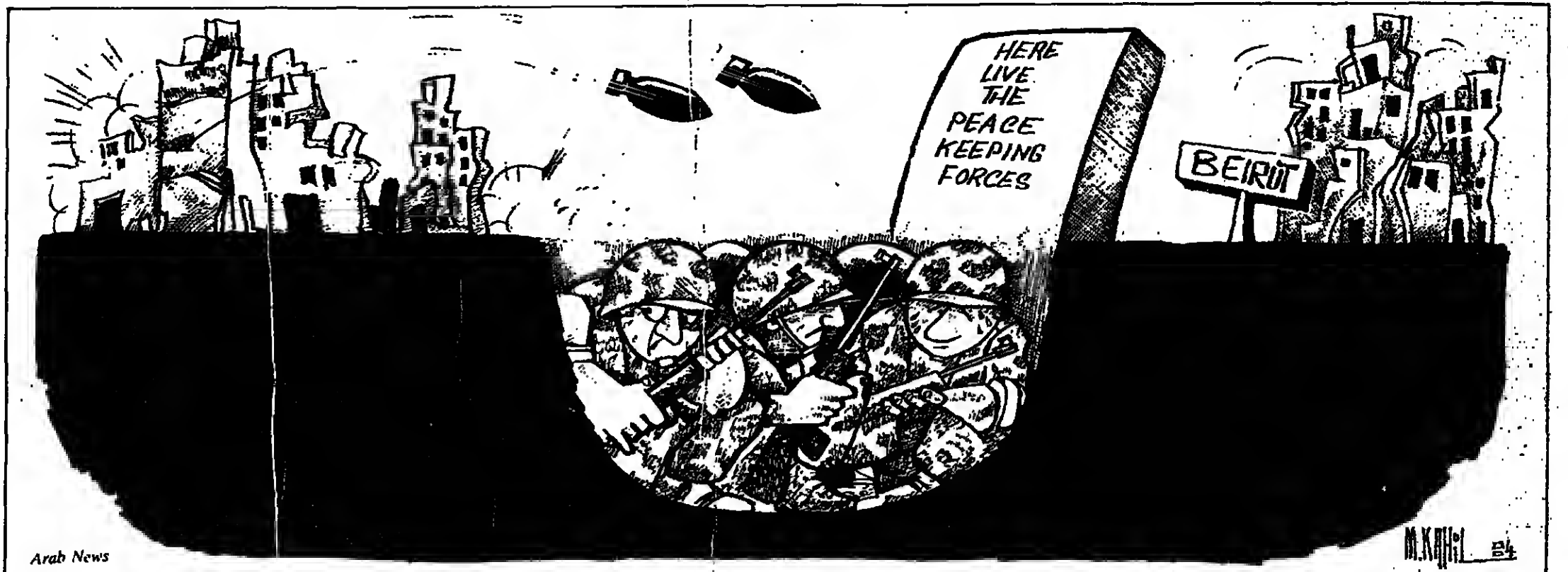
Mr. Chernenko never acquired the authority Mr. Suslov had enjoyed in the politburo as Mr. Andropov appeared to be restricting the scope of his work and dealing with some ideological questions himself.

Although Mr. Chernenko was presented as the official Kremlin number two at the June 1982 Central Committee meeting, Mr. Andropov made clear on later occasions that he was not a favoured ally and certainly not being groomed for the succession.

At Mr. Andropov's last formal public appearance on Aug. 16 last year, the Soviet leader was flanked by younger politburo members Mikhail Gorbachev and Gennadiy Romanov, evidently his choice for future leadership, and Mr. Chernenko was seated some distance away.

In December and January, fierce Kremlin attacks on the Moldavian Party leadership were regarded by analysts as an attempt to discredit Mr. Chernenko and his allies by the Andropov team.

It was only on the day before Mr. Andropov's death that the first sign appeared that Mr. Chernenko's star was once again on the rise. The Communist Party daily Pravda devoted half a page to an article warmly praising a new edition of his articles.



Peace at a good price in Tunisia

Tunisia's reputation for stability has been shattered by riots at the beginning of the year in which at least 120 people died. Francis Gables reports.

TUNIS — Peace has returned to Tunisia after the worst rioting since independence, which left at least 120 dead and considerable damage to property. But the authority of the country's leaders, 83-year-old President Habib Bourguiba and Mr. Mohammed M'Zali, his prime minister, has been dealt a serious blow.

Tunisia's reputation for stability and sensible economic management has been badly dented, both in the West, and in the Middle East which has recently provided substantial aid, loans and investment for the country.

As much as one third of the \$13.2 billion investment budgeted for during the Sixth Economic Development Plan (1982-86) is expected to come from abroad, half from richer Arab countries.

The dismissal of Mr. Driss Guiga, the former interior minister, less than 24 hours after President Bourguiba's decision to rescind the bread price rises which sparked off the riots, revealed the depth of infighting over the succession to the ageing head of state.

Although allegations against Mr. Guiga are exaggerated, the reluctance of the former minister to tighten security after the first disturbances were reported in the south late in December suggests that he had failed correctly to measure the depth of resentment at the price rises.

But the reason why he failed to tell the prime minister and president that gangs of youths were running amok in Tunis, burning, looting and destroying on Jan. 3 was not incompetence. Mr. Guiga's close political alliance with the president's powerful wife, Wassila, has convinced many Tunisians that he was hoping to replace the prime minister.

There are other reasons explaining why the rioting, which spread through the whole country, took such a violent turn in Tunis. Slax, Gafsa and El Kef. The tactics used by demonstrators in Tunis were reminiscent of those used in Tehran in 1978-79 before the



M'Zali — a serious blow

a stroke was akin to setting off a bomb, he and the president were told by Mr. Azouz Lasram, the former Economic Affairs minister.

Ironically, the financial need to remove the subsidies was not so pressing. Food subsidies amount to 20 per cent of GDP and the proportion of food imports in the total import bill is growing all the time. But Tunisia has not needed loans from the International Monetary Fund to bail it out, like so many Third World countries. A foreign debt burden of about \$3.4 billion, and a debt service ratio of 16 per cent to dinars 738 million during the first 10 months of last year and forced the government last summer to limit the import of some raw and semi-finished goods to 80 per cent of 1982 volumes.

Creating 40,000 new jobs a year remains the government's first priority, and is no easy task. There is the added embarrassment that Libya, whom Tunisia has accused of sabotaging the pipeline which carries Algerian oil to the Tunisian coast, and which already employs over 100,000 Tunisians, provided 9,000 new jobs last year and plans a further 14,000 this year.

Southern Tunisia is increasingly beholden to the mercenary Colonel Qadhafi for its economic well being. After a poor performance in 1982 the Tunisian economy

LETTERS

UNRWA issued no decision

To the Editor:

In reference to the news report appearing in your newspaper's under the headline "UNRWA to freeze new cards" (Jordan Times, Feb. 11, 1984), I wish to comment as follows:

UNRWA's Field Office in Jordan is not aware of any decision by Mr. Olof Rydbeck, Commissioner-General of UNRWA, to put a freeze on the issue of individual registration cards, meant to replace the old family registration cards. Neither is UNRWA's Field Office aware of any formal communication from the Jordanian government to the effect that it would object to the issue of the new cards.

Mr. Rydbeck tried, during his latest visit to Jordan to discuss the matter with Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat in pursuance to the discussion he had with Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud. But the prime minister regrettably did not have a possibility to receive the commissioner-general.

UNRWA's Field Office Director in Jordan, P.O. Halkyist is presently in UNRWA Headquarters in Vienna to discuss with the commissioner-general how and when to issue the new cards.

E.J. Saaf,
Officer-in-Charge,
Jordan Field Office,
Amman.

Women should earn it

To the Editor:

We often read and hear about seminars and conferences on women's rights and roles in society, and also calls for granting women the same rights as men.

We are for women's rights and support Jordanian women's struggle to reach parity with men, as we believe that women should exercise full rights and contribute positively towards society's progress. But, given our present situation here in Jordan and the Arab World, we are not so sure about the ability of all women, especially those in the rural regions, to maintain their rights and defend them. We hear stories now and then which really discourage us from voicing full support for women's rights and make us think twice before endorsing their full participation in the country's activities.

In one of the country's small towns a woman was reported to have voted for a man who has been dead for a long time to be member of the new municipal council. A few days ago there was a report in the local press about a unanimous agreement by men in one of Jordan's small towns to deny their women the right to vote in municipal elections and to prevent them from leaving their homes during election day.

Women worldwide have proved their ability to contribute constructively towards building their societies. As Jordan nowadays shoulders national responsibilities and is in the process of activating parliamentary life, we would like to see Jordanian women exercise a more realistic role, and they can start by getting rid of false pretensions and concentrate on acquiring more culture, knowledge and education that enlighten the mind, improve behaviour and brighten women's image in society.

Nader Ghattas,
Amman.

Handwritten signature: J. S. ...

Diary

TOP CHANGES at government level are usually accounted for by political patterns; and where management theories are less applicable, any re-organisational shuffle can happen. When the Badran administration decided late last year to merge the Amman Water and Sewerage Authority (AWSA) and the Water Supply Corporation (WSC) into one authority under the chairmanship of WSC Director Mohammad Saleh Al Kilani there was no job left for AWSA Director Yassin Al Kayed. When the merger was envisaged, Mr. Kayed was apparently promised the post of director of the Sea Ports Corporation, a post left vacant after Mohammad Sa'ad Abu Nowar, its former head, had been made director of the Ajlaba Urban Planning Department. But a former Ministry of Education official, Mr. Murdi Qatamin, who had been acting director of the Sea Ports Corporation, was promoted to direct the corporation under the new administration instead. To make up to Mr. Kayed, the new administration of Prime Minister Ahmad Obaidat gave him the post of adviser at the Prime Ministry and news had it earlier this week that everything was going fine.

WHILE ON the subject of water management and related issues, the drought this year is widely talked about as a problem from which each citizen could suffer. But the lack of rain is by no means the citizens' biggest worry at the moment. The real worry, where it exists, is about the incredible water bills that individual subscribers have been receiving lately. AWSA, the authority in charge of collecting water bills, apparently had introduced a computerised collection system, with possibly new "water meters" being installed at consuming terminals, or homes. Either from this or that, your new water bill could amount to several hundred dinars, when in fact your consumption may not exceed a few JDs' worth of water in any given month. "Outside the AWSA buildings near Jabal Amman's Third Circle, queue those who have the time, and nothing else, to plead their case; the rest of the population watch a tragedy in motion helplessly, dreading that it might be their turn next time," comments an unfortunate water subscriber with a chilly smile. "What management of water resources are you talking about?" he asks.

THE NAMES of two prominent football enthusiasts have been circulating among fans this week to head the Jordanian Football Association — a post that was held by former Minister of Culture and Youth Ma'an Abu Nowar. His Highness Prince Abdullah and Mr. Abdul Raouf Al Rawabdeh, the mayor of Amman, seem the most likely candidates for this much honoured post. Whoever takes over the presidency of the association, has the difficult task of picking up where Mr. Abu Nowar had reached. During his reign, soccer developed into the most popular spectator sport in Jordan, making other sports sound like "also rans". The care and efficient management that running the association requires can be found in the enthusiastic and talented prince, soccer fans think that his acceptance of the post would mark a great victory for football in particular and sports in general. Prince Abdullah proved his sporting capabilities last week when he managed to gain second place in the National Rally (novice class). On the other hand, the recent appointment of Mr. Al Rawabdeh to the Jordanian National Olympic Committee has increased his chances of winning the race to the presidency. Mr. Al Rawabdeh is reputed to be a great supporter of the game and was at one time chairman of Sarif (his hometown) Club. He also built up football teams at the Ministry of Communications when he was minister there and at Amman's Municipality recently.

IF YOU are persevering enough to watch Jordan Television to the end of its rightly transmission, you should notice that the Jordanian national anthem marks the end of programmes. This is definitely the natural state of things; but what is unusual about it is that the traditionally waving flag has turned lazy on our screen that people have started wondering if Jordan Television cannot manage running a film with a waving flag in the background. Moreover, and this has been cynically commented on by several observers recently, a close-up of the band's big bass drum shows the trademark of the drum (foreign-made, naturally) for quite a good while to the extent that some ill-natured critics have interpreted it to be part of the JTV commercials drive. This, of course, is alien to reality, a TV official told the Jordan Times but with people of the kind in the vicinity, it is indeed appropriate that the JTV administration find a solution which would save it such inconsiderate insinuations. After all, it is the country's national anthem, he said.

Israeli army outstaying its 'welcome' in southern Lebanon

The unpredictable orchards of Saida

By Jean-Pierre Langellier

SIDON — We were travelling down Sidon's main street around noon when my taxi driver suddenly slammed on the brakes and did a U-turn. Some 100 metres away a suspicious cardboard box had been seen on the road which had already emptied. The explosion took place a little later even before the Israeli soldiers arrived. Just routine, or almost.

Parking is forbidden at any time on this shopping street — Riad Al Solh — known for its confectionery. Absent-minded people had better watch out for they are likely to find their ears riddled with bullet holes when a very jittery army patrol goes by. Since a bomb-rigged truck crashed into the Tyre governor's residence and exploded last November, soldiers look out for suspicious vehicles and destroy them.

After 19 months of occupation — or "presence", as Tel Aviv coyly puts it — the Israeli army is constantly on the alert in southern Lebanon, and is subject to at least one or two attacks every day — grenades, rockets, or mines.

Long gone are the carefree days when part of the local population, delighted to be rid of the Palestinians, used to shower Israeli soldiers with rice and sweets. Today, any contact with the Lebanese inhabitants is severely punished. In the eastern sector, which has been quiet up to now, Israeli soldiers occasionally go to the village to drink a cup of Turkish coffee or buy cigarettes, but the "fraternal" ends there. The army maintains a minimal presence in urban areas so as to be less vulnerable.

The coastal road, the most dangerous, is patrolled by Israeli soldiers moving on foot through the orchards (excellent terrain for attacks) and examining the verges where "the enemy" usually buries landmines which are remote-controlled and blown up when a convoy passes. Often they wear neither helmets nor bulletproof vests, for the former hampers the view and the latter slows down progress. The army has limited the risks between Tyre and Sidon by mowing down orange groves to about 50 metres on either side of the road. And it is stepping up spot checks which cause long delays and greatly antagonise the Lebanese.

Retaliatory dynamic

Any occupation of a foreign country sets in motion a disastrous dynamic. Since June 1982, southern Lebanon has experienced, successively, relief, indifference, impatience, resentment and finally armed revolt. Sidon and Tyre, where Alexander the Great him-

self had to lead a seven-month-long siege, have of course been accustomed to resisting occupying powers for the past 2,000 years. "I repudiate violence, but it's inevitable," Bishop Haddad of Tyre says. "When Israeli officials came to see me after the invasion, I warned them. I told them: 'Give all the help you can to the Lebanese government to consolidate its authority, then go away. Unfortunately, they haven't followed this advice'."

A few bad mistakes, a series of fumbles and a general contempt for and incomprehension of the Lebanese social and cultural milieu turned against the Israeli army a population that was initially not hostile to it.

If the first attacks against the soldiers go back to last summer, the real "escalation" is only a few months old. The fear that mushroomed after the Tyre bomb attack is a bad counsellor.

A Sunni Muslim, like the majority of Sidon's inhabitants, and one of Lebanon's six *mouhafzes* (governors), Halim Fayyad, a patrician-looking member of the upper middle class, bears a hearty grudge against Israel. When the Israelis entered the city in June 1982, they drove him out of his "palace", the traditional headquarters of the Lebanese administration. Since then he has been working in a rented office nearby without archives and files. For 18 months the military government, codenamed "Unity for helping civilians", co-existed with a part of the public services — education, taxes, surveys and registration.

Early in January, the Israelis set up headquarters at Kfarfoul, in a former Falangist garrison, a dozen kilometres from Sidon, leaving behind in the governor's palace only their intelligence services and the border guards' headquarters. Many of the offices are unoccupied, but the governor is not allowed to return there. The regional administration, especially, has come to a standstill.

"If you lose your identity card," noted Mr. Fayyad, "you can't obtain a duplicate. Considering all these checkpoints, there is no question of moving around without papers. Real estate transactions have become impossible. The people resent it like a collective punishment."

Fatal measure

Another measure that has angered the Lebanese in the south is the closing of the bridges across the Awali River, North-South traffic, which was stopped for five days in early November, resumed but at a much slower rate (a few hundred vehicles a day compared with the 6,000 before).

"Sidon" observed Fayyad, "is

like a big suburb of Beirut." Dissuading the people in the south from going up to the capital strengthens their feeling of isolation they have always had and perpetuates their obsession about being one day cut off from the rest of the country. The Israeli army's answer to that is that it cannot do anything else to ensure its own security.

Yet, the effectiveness of checks on the Awali River are questionable considering that they have not prevented renewed attacks in the South. In the past few days a bus service has been laid on from the inner city to the river. The situation is expected to improve in the coming weeks when a terminal for screening eight vehicles rapidly and simultaneously goes into service. But the humiliation inflicted on the Lebanese will not disappear for all that.

The Awali River checks are seriously upsetting the South's economy, already thrown out of gear by the war. Oranges by the million are rotting on the trees between Tyre and Sidon. What is the point of picking them when the delays at the bridge triple transport costs? The same goes for tobacco. "My turnover has halved," says Ibrahim Makkawi, a Sidon orange grower, "and I'm forced to dispose of my harvest through Syria."

There is another problem: farm workers refuse to do overtime as they are afraid of Israeli night patrols. Many orchards have been abandoned. Fishermen complain about the restrictions imposed on them by the army. One out of two Sidon inhabitants formerly worked in Beirut, so many of them are now without work. The South's economy is holding up thanks to contraband and money sent in by the Lebanese diaspora in West Africa.

"The Israelis," observes Bishop Haddad, "are perhaps good soldiers, but they have poor relations with people. Lebanon is a complex world whose subtleties are frequently lost on the occupier."

Different Lebanon

Israel has been in southern Lebanon since 1978, but the Lebanon of the Shi'ites not of Major Haddad. As for Said's orchards, they are more dangerous than the hills of Judea. The comparison with the West Bank often crosses the mind, but it is exaggerated, except perhaps in one area — the police surveillance. In southern Lebanon, as on the West Bank, the Shinbeth (the Israeli security service) has set up a network of informers which it controls the more easily as they are often "repentant" Palestinians or the needy unemployed. Israeli operatives utilise for their own benefit the

old trick of lanning minor ancestral rivalries between villages and families.

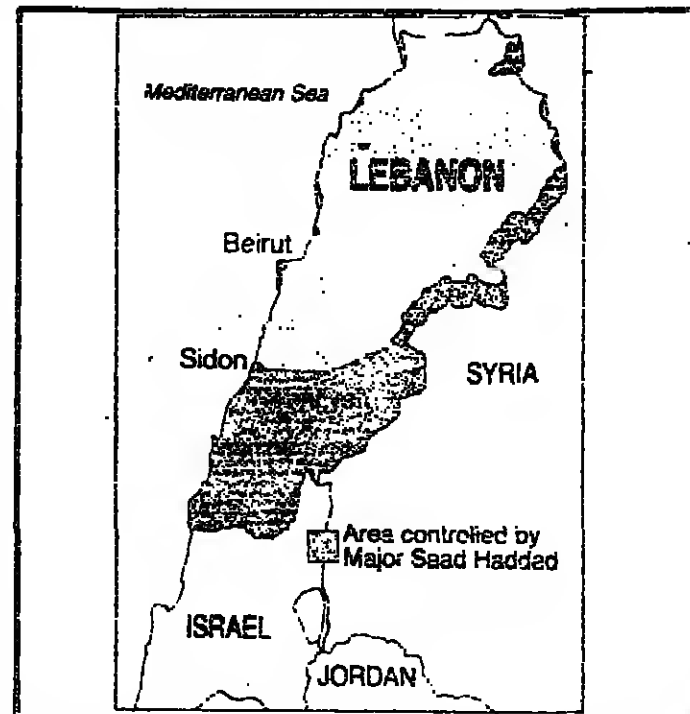
Though it is hard to say how valuable this "forced collaboration" is, two things, at any rate, are certain. First, the well-known Ansar camp near Nabatieh had a good many innocent people among the 4,000 detainees freed last November (some 150 prisoners are again in the camp); and, secondly, the Shi'ites, who are in a clear majority south of the Awali (seven out of ten inhabitants), have so far (there is evidence to the contrary) resisted pretty successfully Israeli attempts to penetrate their community.

Pictures of Imam Musa Sadr, the Lebanese Shi'ite spiritual mentor who disappeared mysteriously during a visit to Libya in 1978, are to be seen on walls in Tyre. Shi'ites of all persuasions claim obedience to the Imam who, in the early 1970s, founded the Amal movement. "We're putting up Gandhi-style passive resistance to Israel," explained Khaled Hamdan, an Amal official in Tyre. "We are organising demonstrations against the occupier, strikes and mosque sit-ins. We are asking the people to avoid any contact with the Israelis. But we're not initiating any military action and we're not terrorists."

The Amal's leader in Tyre, Daud Daud, to see me, interrupted a meeting he had with a few mullahs of the region concerning a serious incident that had taken place a couple of days earlier at Halayse, a nearby locality. That day, the Israeli army looking for suspects had run up against the villagers' hostility. After the discovery of some weapons and ammunition, the Israelis arrested a dozen people, including the village sheikh, and bulldozed his house.

Who attacked the Israeli soldiers? The Amal's Palestinians, cautious and legalist, claimed to know nothing of such personal initiatives, but took care not to repudiate them. What did they think of the "visionaries of Islamic Amal" who advocate a "holy war" against Israel? "We have no contacts with them. We don't follow the same line."

Israel has made the strategic mistake of underestimating the influence of Shi'ite religious personalities who are in any way inspired by the Iranian example. Mullahs and sheikhs have succeeded in filling the political vacuum by becoming the real organisers of the resistance. The most virulent in the Nabatieh region are calling on the people to combat the "Zionist foe". They now openly claim responsibility, in communiqués published in the Beirut press, for attacks against the Israeli army.



the Israeli army; attacks which seem to be both individual actions and collective initiatives. Former Ansar camp prisoners are too closely watched and cannot act directly. But they can, it is said in Tyre, pass on "technical expertise" to the others. Amal leaders, who still have only a limited following in the villages, are trying to jump on the bandwagon by taking a tougher line.

Few collaborators

Compared with this radicalisation in the South, the rare friends of Israel cut sorry figures. Shauki Abdullah, a trader in private life, is running the "political branch" — pompously called the United Assembly of the South — of a pro-Israeli militia unit consisting of a hundred or so men and misleadingly named "Partisans of the Army" (the Lebanese army, of course).

Abdullah, who was not expecting me, hurriedly gathered together on his desk the symbols of his authority — a telephone, a few visiting cards and headed newspaper. "I work with Israeli friends to sort out the people's everyday problems. I act as judge and step in to have innocent people freed. There's no police station here any more. Our men have replaced it. But I'm a Lebanese first. Why shouldn't I be on good terms with the Israelis when people living in Ba'albeck or the Bekaa are forced to get along with Syria?"

These Shi'ite militiamen, some of whom have criminal records, represent only themselves and are regarded by the vast majority of people as plain collaborators. Israel provides them with weapons, uniforms, trucks. For \$300 a

month they get some sort of training and guard a few roadblocks. But they have no autonomy at all. At Jouaya, for example, they move around only under escort. Israel is trying to reproduce among the Shi'ites the successful experiment it carried out with the "Army of Free Lebanon" among the Marjayoun Christians. But none of its new allies has the prestige of the late Major Haddad. One of them wisely headed in his resignation at the end of last November. Three others at least have been assassinated since.

"This is a disastrous policy," sighed the bishop of Tyre. "The more the Israelis try to set up groups owing allegiance to them, the more they will strengthen the fundamentalist trend."

Shi'ites, Sunnis and Christians all say they are waiting for only one thing — the arrival of the Lebanese army in the South. "The soldiers will be greeted with flowers, even if they're Maronites," predicts Hamdan.

My taxi driver, Jamal, lives near Tyre harbor. A picture of a hooded "Christ" hangs on a lamp wall of his sitting room. Yet Jamal is a Sunni Muslim. "I see," he explained, "when my family moved into this house, they didn't dare take the picture down, for the neighbourhood has been Christian for a very long time." On the opposite wall hangs the photograph of a young man which his father contemplates for a long time every evening before going to bed. The picture is his son, Ahmad Alawi (26), who was among 30 Lebanese and Palestinian detainees who were killed when the governor's office in Tyre was attacked. He had been picked up as a suspect and was to have been freed two days later. — Le Monde.

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Connors lands U.S. indoor title after last set drama

MEMPHIS, Tennessee (R) — Jimmy Connors won the U.S. National Indoor Tennis Championship title for the seventh time here Sunday after a last-set drama in which his French opponent Henri Leconte collapsed.

Connors triumphed 6-3, 4-6, 7-5 in a compelling 118-minute final which it seemed would end prematurely and under sad circumstances when Leconte suddenly collapsed in the first game of the final set.

The Frenchman lay motionless on court for nearly two minutes surrounded by Connors, who had jumped over the net, trainer Bill Norris and an unidentified doctor, who leaped onto the court from his box seat.

"I don't know what happened," Leconte said after the match. "I couldn't see anything."

Leconte finally got to his feet, but not before umpire Frank Hammond, under Grand Prix conduct rules, was forced to assess first a warning for delay of game, then a point penalty, and finally a game penalty, giving Connors a 1-0 lead.

On the changeover, Leconte ate chocolate and drank orange juice as instructed by Norris, the Association of Tennis Professionals (A.T.P.) trainer.

"He was dehydrated," Norris said. "He didn't have enough liquids."

"I saw him lean over the backstop at the end of the second set and I didn't know what was going on," said Connors.

After stroking one ball off the roof of the building and another into the side fence, Leconte collapsed.

Once play resumed, it was Connors who was tentative. "I was put in a position of how to play somebody who is in a coma," the American said. "If I keep the ball in play and run him around and get him overheated, then what?"

Playing with uncertainty, Connors ran into trouble as Leconte showed no lasting effects and started stroking winners with confidence.

In the third game Connors saved a breakpoint as Leconte

missed a forehand. In the 11th game Connors was down 15-30 but won the next three points for 6-5.

In the final game, Leconte double-faulted for 15-15. At 30-30 the 16th-seeded Frenchman missed a backhand volley, setting the stage for his eighth, and most crucial, double fault of the match.

The victory, worth \$45,000, gave Connors his 101st career title, his first victory of the year and first win since the U.S. Open last September.

Connors' success increased his record number of U.S. indoor titles — Wylie Grant of the United States with five, all before 1912, is next on the list.

Leconte earned \$22,500 in a thoroughly gutsy performance.

The doubles title went to top-seeded Americans Peter Fleming and Fritz Buehning, who beat fourth-seeded Heinz Günthardt of Switzerland and Tomas Smid of Czechoslovakia 6-3, 6-4.

U.S. gains 1st, 2nd as ski programme makes belated start

SARAJEVO (R) — Debbie Armstrong and Christin Cooper landed giant slalom gold and silver for the United States as the glamour alpine ski programme made its belated start at the Winter Olympics Monday.

Blizzards forced officials to revamp the entire ski schedule and Armstrong had the honour of taking the first crown of the slopes.

She overhauled first leg pacesetter Cooper down the second of the two runs and took the title by four tenths of a second.

Tamara McKinney went close to producing an American sweep of the medals but French girl Perrine Pelen split them with a surprise third place. She also took the bronze at the 1981 Lake Placid Games.

Armstrong's success ended a disappointing 12-year spell in which U.S. skiers have failed to strike gold at Olympic level. Barbara Cochran was the last to achieve it, winning the slalom at the 1972 Sapporo Games.

Medals table leaders East Germany took their sixth gold on the sixth day of action when Karin Enke won the women's 1,100 metres speed skating title.

She sliced two and a half seconds off Soviet skater Natalya Petrusova's Olympic record but the Russian gained a little consolation by taking the bronze behind Enke's team mate Andrea Schöene.

Enke also triumphed over 1,500 metres on Thursday and gained the 500 metres silver on Friday.

Cross country skiing is hardly a graceful sport but a man named Swan dominated the 15-km race. Sweden's Gunde Swan beat a Finnish trio to the gold after the Soviet challenge failed to materialise.

There were further problems in the ice hockey tournament when the West German team were threatened with a fine if they continue, to carry advertising on their tunics.

The sport produced the biggest pre-games row in which five players were declared ineligible because of professional ties.

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United reclaims 3rd place in title race

LONDON (R) — Manchester United reclaims third place in the first division with an emphatic 5-1 win at Luton Sunday as the English Soccer Championship narrowed significantly to just four sides.

United, pushed into fourth place by West Ham's win at Coventry Saturday, hauled themselves one point ahead of the Londoners with a convincing display.

England captain Bryan Robson and Northern Ireland striker Norman Whiteside grabbed two goals apiece as United, who also hit the post and the bar, coasted to their biggest win of the season.

Robson netted first eight minutes before halftime with Whiteside adding a second just two minutes later. Luton battled hard to get back into the game after the break but Robson, Stapleton and Whiteside each scored in the closing 10 minutes to seal an easy win.

W. German soccer stars under fire from fans

By Paul Radford
Reuter

BONN (R) — West German soccer stars, once the nation's idols, now face abuse and insults from disgruntled fans as the game plunges into a serious image crisis.

First division (Bundesliga) clubs, who resumed their league title campaign last week after the annual six-week winter break, are showing alarm at the rift which has developed between players and supporters.

Many believe the problem must be tackled quickly before it cripples the game.

National goalkeeper Harald 'Toni' Schumacher, for years one of West Germany's most popular stars, was stunned at a recent meet-the-players session of his Cologne club when one fan asked him: "Why are you so arrogant?"

Another asked: "Is it because you earn so much money that you care so little about what happens in the stadium?"

Schumacher complained bitterly afterwards that the fans were "malicious and aggressive." He said the meeting resembled an inquisition and vowed he would never attend another.

Cologne trainer Hannes Loehr sighed nostalgically for the days when fans merely wanted to know what size boots the players wore.

Schumacher's experience was not an isolated one. It reflects a disenchantment among the soccer public which can be heard each day in thousands of conversation in factories, offices and bars throughout the country.

Ask a West German soccer fan what he thinks of the state of the game and he will almost invariably reply that the players are overpaid, arrogant and cosseted and that they put little effort into the sport which rewards them so well.

Paul Breitner, the Bayern Munich midfielder who retired last year, said he quit the game at the relatively early age of 31, partly because he "was no longer prepared to be called a swine by eight-year-old fans."

Bernard Dietz, a former national team captain with 13 years' Bundesliga experience, says fans' attitudes have recently changed. If you pause for breath, he said, they are liable to shout: "Move yourself, you lazy dog."

The roots of the discontent can be traced back to the 1982 World Cup in Spain where the national team, despite reaching the final, attracted an unprecedented wave

of bad publicity.

An incredible 2-1 defeat at the hands of little Algeria, the scandal of the 1-11 win over Austria which looked — even to most West Germans — like a fixed result and Schumacher's semi-final 'foul' that landed Frenchman Patrick Battiston in hospital all played a role.

Arrogant statements to the press and refusals to give interviews did not help. But the biggest faux pas of all came in Gijon when some players threw water over West German fans to drive them away from the team hotel.

West Germans believe passionately in getting value for money and the thought of supporters who had sacrificed a lot of cash to follow their team to Spain being treated in this way by highly-paid players was hard to swallow.

Domestic crowds were woe-venting their anger, demanding more effort from first division players, many of whom earn upwards of 300,000 marks (\$100,000) a year.

West Germany's decline as a soccer power since the World Cup has only served to increase the fans' disenchantment with their erstwhile heroes.

The national side stumbled badly before qualifying for June's European Championships in France, losing twice to Northern Ireland and only beating Albania at home with a goal 10 minutes from time.

Then, for the first time ever, not one of the six club teams in European competitions reached the quarter-finals.

This disaster has, at least, helped the clubs concentrate their minds on stopping the alienation of their spectators.

Bundesliga attendances last season fell from 8.3 million five years ago to 6.2 million, the lowest figure since 1972/73 when soccer was undergoing an earlier image crisis caused by a major bribery scandal.

With little evidence of improvement this season some clubs are seriously trying to build bridges between players and fans.

Borussia Dortmund are following Cologne in starting open discussions between team members and supporters while Bayer Leverkusen launched a campaign last week under the slogan "professionals with heart."

Bayer publicity chief Willi Gierlich said: "Our players must show heart on the field and in their dealings with the spectators and their fellow-men."

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Bubka fails to break own record

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — Sergei Bubka of the Soviet Union beat Billy Olson in the pole vault again Sunday but failed in a bid to break his own 24-hour-old world indoor record.

Bubka, 20, broke his own mark when he vaulted 19 feet 1.5 inches (5.83 metres) in Los Angeles Friday night, but could manage only 18 feet 8.25 inches (5.70 metres) at the U.S. Olympic invitational athletics meeting here Sunday. He then failed in three attempts at 19 feet 2 inches (5.84 metres).

Earl Bell of the United States also cleared 18 feet 8.25 inches Sunday night, a personal best, on his third vault after Bubka had done so at his second attempt.

Olson, the previous world indoor record-holder, surprisingly did not start until 18 feet 8.25 inches. But he missed on all three attempts and was eliminated.

Carl Lewis, who broke his own world indoor long jump record when he leaped 28 feet 10.25 inches two weeks ago, won the event with a leap of 28 feet 0.75 inches (8.55 metres).

After clearing 18 feet 8.25 inches, Bubka, who grips his pole higher than any other vaulter, passed at 18 feet 0.25 inches, which Bell missed three times.

On his first attempt at 19 feet two inches, Bubka got over the crossbar, only to hit it on the way

down. He never came close on his ensuing two vaults.

Olson, who finished second to Bubka at 19 feet 1.25 inch Friday night, was late arriving at the track because he was being treated for a hamstring injury. As a result, the 25-year-old Texan was forced to begin at what turned out to be the winning height.

Lewis, 22, a triple gold medalist at the World Championships in Helsinki last August, accomplished his best jump on the second of his five attempts.

Larry Myricks finished second at 26 feet 6.5 inches (8.19 metres). In the mile, Jose Abascal of Spain overtook Jim Spivey of the United States about 250 yards from the finish to win in 3:55.69. Spivey was clocked in 3:55.86, while Ross Donoghue finished third in 3:56.20.

Apart from Abascal's victory, the meet was dominated by Americans.

Don Paige, the former 1,000-metre world record-holder, returned to indoor competition after a year's absence caused by a leg injury to set an American indoor record of 2:18.88.

TIME

A NEW U.S. PROPOSAL FOR START (Shultz authorised to advance new position, but Gromyko had deaf ears)
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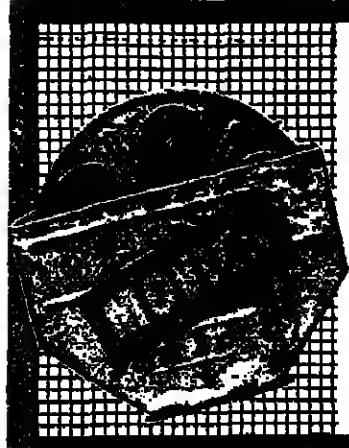
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Performances: 3:30-6 - 8:30

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1- RIKSHA "Indian film"

2- HUMAN BEING AND VERSUS THE MONSTER

Cinema
RAGHADAN
Tel: 22198

TROUBLE MAKERS IN THE ARMY

"Arabic film"

Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

UAE to ask Britain to import more oil

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is to ask Britain to buy more oil to redress a sharp drop in its UAE oil imports, the petroleum and mineral resources ministry said Sunday.

A statement said the issue would be raised at a meeting in London on Thursday of the joint UAE-British economic committee.

It said Britain imported only 10.7 million barrels of UAE oil in 1982 compared with 64.1 million barrels in 1975.

Britain topped the list of foreign exporters to the UAE in 1981 with a total of 2.52 billion dirhams (about \$690 million) worth of goods.

EC to lend Egypt \$34m for electricity

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community is to lend about \$34 million to help to link up an Egyptian gas-fueled power station to the national electricity grid, officials said Monday.

The cash would help to install more than 150 kilometres of power lines and build sub-stations for the 900-megawatt Shoubra El Khayma power plant north of Cairo, which is due for completion in 1987.

The 15-year loan is from the European Investment Bank to the Egyptian Electricity Authority at 7.15 per cent, after deducting a three per cent interest subsidy funded from the community budget.

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The market closed mixed in quiet trading with most attention centred on special situation stocks such as Phoenix Assurance, which jumped 31p to 481 after 490 on renewed bid speculation, dealers said.

At 1500 the F.T. index was down 1.7 at 813.7, but the newly inaugurated London stock exchange index of 1000 shares rose 1.7 to 1019.7.

Government bonds were firmer where changed, but trading was minimal due to the partial U.S. holiday. Gold shares were mixed but with a lower bias in dull trading. North American shares were quietly firmer, dealers said.

T.I. group rose 14p after the chairman's denial of a bid approach from General Electric of the U.S. and Dalgety was 11p up at 456 following the announcement of a 73 per cent increase in half-year pre-tax profits, dealers said.

Oils moved off best levels on profit-taking having opened higher after the weekend escalation in the Iran-Iraq conflict. Shell was 11p up at 611 after 613. Lasso rose 13p to 318 and B.P. added 5p to 423 after 428.

Among stocks quoted in ex-dividend form Tate and Lyle fell 15p to 393 while Cable and Wireless eased 11p to 313. Grandmet, however, moved up 5p to 345 despite being quoted ex-dividend.

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One sterling	1.4170/81	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2462/65	Canadian dollars
	2.7368/78	West German marks
	3.0855/65	Dutch guilders
	2.2380/81	Swiss francs
	56.13/17	Belgian francs
	8.4220/51	French francs
	1684.75/1685.75	Italian lire
	244.38/48	Japanese yen
	8.0900/1050	Swedish crowns
	7.7675/7725	Norwegian crowns
	9.9725/9775	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	377.25/377.75	U.S. dollars

Japanese firms win \$200m job in Sharjah

ABU DHABI (R) — A Japanese consortium has agreed in principle with the government of Sharjah to set up a \$200 million Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) plant in the emirate, Japanese officials said Monday.

They told Reuters that a consortium of C. Itoh Company and Japan Gas Corporation were now preparing a draft final agreement and were expected to return to Sharjah with it in the next seven to 10 days.

Consultants for the project, which industry sources said would have a daily capacity of 300 million cubic feet, would be Bechtel Corporation of the United States.

They said the Japanese consortium, which would also help in marketing the LPG, presented the lowest tender for the plant, to be built on the site of the Sharjah oil field with an estimated 7,000 billion cubic feet in gas reserves.

There was no immediate word on the expected completion date for the plant.

FTC approves largest corporate merger

WASHINGTON (AP) — The largest corporate merger in U.S. history — between the Texaco Oil Company and Getty Oil Co. — received tentative approval Monday from the Federal Trade Commission (FTC).

Ford plans new global strategy

RIO DE JANEIRO: Brazil has the potential to match Japan as a low-cost source of high-quality cars, says Mr. Bob Lutz, executive vice-president of Ford International Automotive Operations and responsible for all the Ford activities outside North America.

To back his point, Ford has last month launched Brazilian-built versions of its Escort car in three European markets — Norway, Sweden and Finland — with a launch in Iceland to follow this month or in March.

The Brazilian cars will go on sale alongside European versions of the Escort, but will have retail prices 6 per cent to 7 per cent below those for the European cars.

Visually there is little difference between the two versions, but the new imports have Brazilian-designed engines of 1.340 cc or 1.551 cc. They will, however, incorporate Ford's five-speed transmission, which is made in Bordeaux, France.

Ford sees a need for the Brazilian cars in order to price some Escort models against the Japanese in the Scandinavian markets. In Scandinavia the Japanese, do not face the 17 per cent tariff imposed by the European Community (E.C.).

The Japanese have 36 per cent of the Norwegian car market, where Ford is market leader in company terms, with 15 per cent. In Finland, the Japanese have nearly 40 per cent, but in Sweden, which has its own domestic manufacturers, their share is only around 15 per cent.

Ford has imported 3,000 Brazilian Escorts for the launch and will gear future imports to European events.

The group has a clear interest in Brazil fulfilling its potential as a car-producer. It has in the past few years clawed its way back to profitability in many Asia-Pacific and South American markets by switching the sourcing of its cars from Western industrialised countries.

particularly the U.K., to Japan.

Ford owns, however, only 25 per cent of Toyo Kogyo, the Japanese supplier of cars for its network in Asia-Pacific, but has almost 100 per cent of Ford do Brazil.

Mr. Lutz says: "We are continuing to develop the relationship with Toyo Kogyo. But we are also devoting a lot of attention to Brazil."

A Toyo Kogyo designed small car will be produced at a \$500 million plant announced only last month which Ford intends to build in Mexico. The cars will be mainly exported to the U.S.

But, Brazil remains central to Ford's strategy. It has a large domestic car market and developed industrial infrastructure. Wage rates in the Sao Paulo area, the major vehicle-producing region, are about \$2 an hour.

"You can take a reasonably well educated labour force, and introduce Japanese methods of employee training and employee involvement to get first-class quality," says Mr. Lutz.

Until recently, the Brazilian component suppliers had been "a problem because some of the big suppliers have had a quasi-monopolistic position, and because imports of parts are prohibited, they have been able to charge more or less what they wanted."

"But we are in the process of pointing out to the Brazilian suppliers that they have got to be more efficient and more competitive on a world basis. We've made very good progress in convincing them that this can be so. My big hope is that by doing the right things in Brazil we can make that country cost competitive with the Japanese in the production of automobiles," Mr. Lutz added.

One element in Ford's global strategy is to be represented in every world car market — as long as it can make a return on investment. But, according to Mr. Lutz: "That is not to say that if the bottom line is not there we pull up stakes and get out."

S. Arabia tightens control over banks

BAHRAIN (R) — Saudi Arabia has announced new measures to improve control over its banking system and stem outflows of the Saudi currency from the country, senior banking sources in Saudi Arabia said Monday.

The Saudi Arabian Monetary Agency (SAMA), the kingdom's central bank, Sunday told banks of a new scheme under which it would ask them to deposit funds in special new accounts.

It asked the nine Saudi commercial banks to deposit a total 350 million riyals (\$100 million) in the first of a planned weekly offering of the deposits.

Banks will get back one million riyals (\$285,000) after 13 weeks for every deposit of just over 979,000 riyals (\$279,000), giving them an effective annual yield of 8.5776 per cent.

By varying the amounts of funds held in the new bankers security deposit accounts, SAMA will be able to influence the amount of money in the banking system and hence increase its control over interest rates.

Bankers said that by soaking up funds the new accounts would stem the drift of Saudi riyals out of the kingdom, particularly to banks in Bahrain, which has long been a matter of concern to the Saudi authorities.

Nigeria to import essential commodities

LAGOS (OPECNA) — Essential commodities worth about \$238 million are expected to arrive in Nigeria within the next few weeks. Brigadier Tunde Idiagbon, chief of staff, supreme headquarters, announced at the weekend.

He told newsmen that some of the items would include baby food, evaporated and powdered milk, sugar, salt, tyres and tubes.

He said one of the military administration's approaches to revamp the economy was to revalidate or issue import licences for essential goods — including raw materials and food items — to large companies with nationwide distribution networks.

This was designed to combat the scarcity of essential commodities, he stressed.

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: You will be tied down today to some condition requiring you to exercise a conscientious approach. It is likely to be of interest where family or emotions are concerned.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Make sure that all is operating harmoniously at home. Handle business affairs wisely. Not a good day for entertaining.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Exercise greater care in driving and also in conversations. Make sure that any statements are accurately made.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Be careful in handling monetary affairs or you could lose a good deal. You may get some advice that is not good, so forget it.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A situation that does not concern you can get you upset if you permit. Not a good day to be social.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) There is an annoyance that you can do little about, so forget it. Don't take up any debatable points with a loved one.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) Don't permit a high-strung friend to take your time. Analyze your personal aims better. Use care and tact.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 23) A higher-up could be in an irate mood and is looking for a whipping-boy, so be sure it isn't you. Don't be nervous.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 to Nov. 21) Get that annoying matter solved in an adroit fashion instead of trying to work dangerous angles. Not a good day to plan a trip. Relax.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You feel you have more to do than you can handle; but you will be surprised how much you can do now. Avoid quarrelling.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) Steer clear of an outsider who is not thinking clearly. Avoid trouble. Not a good day for making contracts.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) You may be using the wrong system and find it hard to get work done. Avoid fellow worker who is itching for a fight.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Don't run off to some expensive pleasure out of frustration or anger. Your mate could have a legitimate complaint.

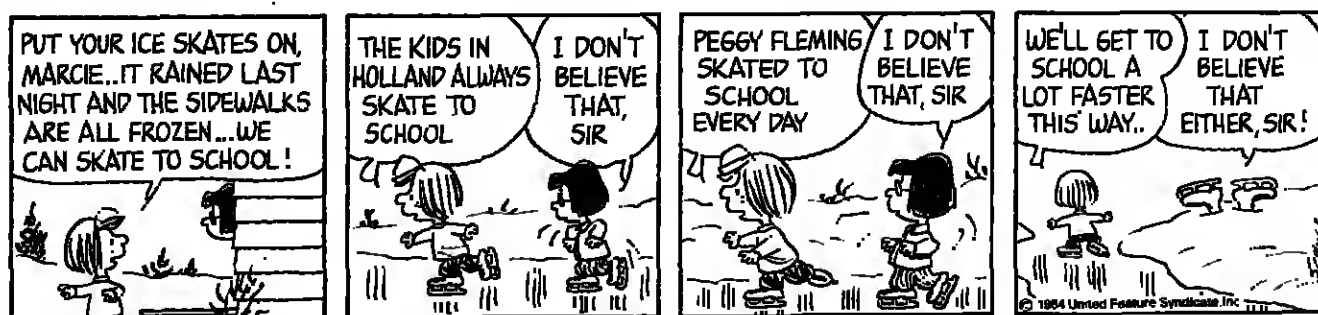
IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY... he or she will be someone who will have a positive outlook on life and be very independent. Be sure to teach the facts of life. One who will always make a plan for any venture and then carry through with it.

"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



Peanuts



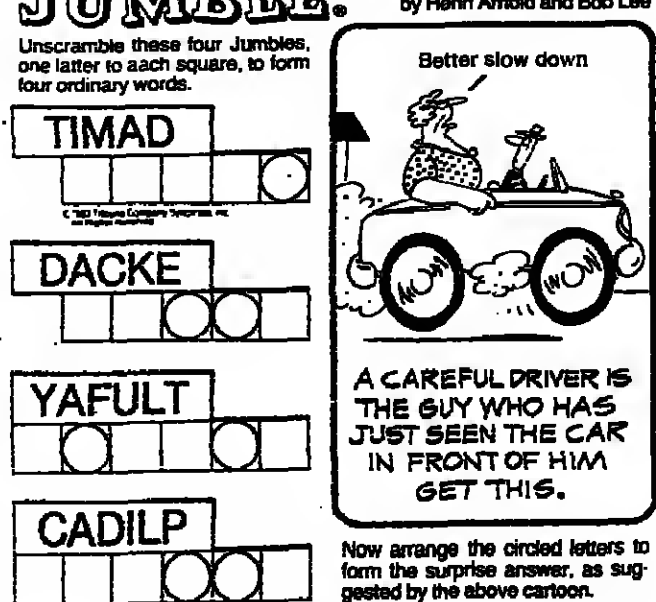
Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



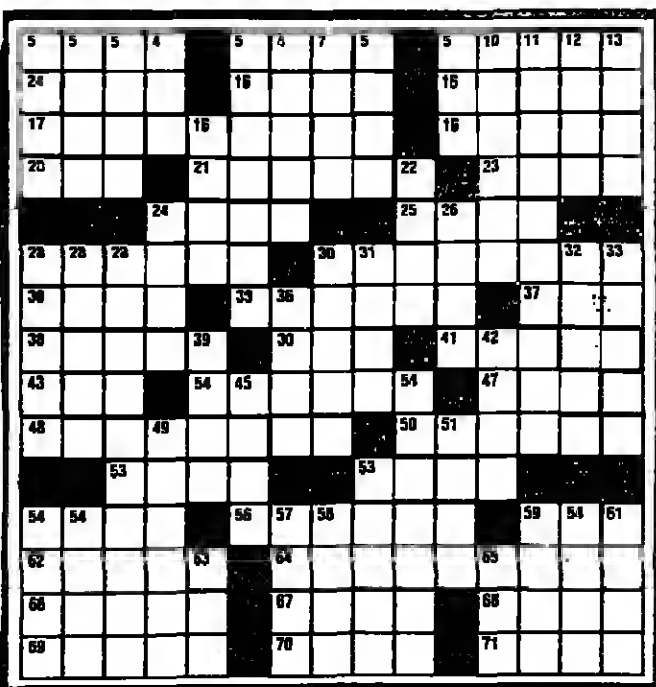
JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee



Print answer here:
Yesterday's Jumbles: HENCE UNITY JUNKET SHAKEN
Answer: In the pen doing a long sentence—THE INK

THE Daily Crossword by Nancy McCarthy

ACROSS	25 Musician	52 Prunes away	22 Town in Sicily
1 Espirit da corps	27 Secure, as a hatch	53 Growl	24 Suit to—
5 NCOs	30 Hatch and teller's cards	54 Is sick	26 Takes food
9 Flower	34 Indian	56 Fortune teller's cards	27 Variety of tea
14 King's address	35 Male tabby	58 — Paulo	28 Coralisle
15 Swiss waterway	37 Luzzu	62 Mrs. Garbo	29 Magnum
16 Retail establishment	38 Necktie	64 Hatchets	30 Deliver a blow
17 River of Misa and Ala	40 Successful show	66 Vehicle for Andreoli	31 Outside: prof.
19 — cum laude	41 Surpass	68 Podium	32 Delta — hero
20 Half moon	43 Railways	69 Leg joint	33 Favored a factor
21 Moon goddess	44 Piper's son?	70 Antitoxins	36 Units of resistance
23 From a distance	47 Gaelic	71 Lab heater	39 Halt
24 Weyers	48 Pub		42 Equal
	50 Followed orders		45 Evict
			46 Super Bowl
			49 Youth stopover
			51 Wild party
			54 Taj Mahal site
			55 Persia
			57 Sultana
			58 Range
			59 Dispatch a fly
			60 Related
			61 Pelton's partner
			63 Elixir
			65 Citrus cooler
			18 Capri, a.g.



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Six key politburo members: Front row from left, Gromyko, Chernenko, Tikhonov; second row, Romanov, Viktor Grishin and Gorbachev (file photo)

Nations pay respects to Andropov

NEW YORK (Agencies) — Preparations and national gestures of respect continued Sunday, as the world awaited the funeral of Soviet leader Yuri Andropov, who died Thursday.

In Belgrade, Yugoslavia proclaimed Feb. 14, the day of the funeral, a day of national mourning, the news agency Tanjug reported.

A government announcement said all public institutions would fly the Yugoslav flag at half staff, a gesture also made when Mr. Andropov's predecessor, Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, died.

Earlier most Soviet Bloc countries announced that Tuesday would be a day of national mourning, while Bulgaria announced both Monday and Tuesday days of mourning.

In Bucharest, the Romanian state-run Agerpres News Agency announced that a Romanian Communist Party and state delegation, led by President Nicolae Ceausescu, will attend the ceremony.

It did not name the other members of the Romanian delegation, but said the decision was made at a meeting of the party's Executive Political Committee (politburo), which is headed by Mr. Ceausescu as party chief.

Czechoslovakia will be represented by President and Communist Party Leader Gustav Husak, Premier Lubomir Shougal and Central Committee Secretary Vasil Bilak, the state-run media announced in Prague.

Elsewhere, Swiss officials announced that Foreign Affairs Minister Pierre Aubert, a former president would fly to Moscow Monday to represent that neutral country.

Mr. Aubert will be accompanied at the graveside by a

senior foreign affairs department official and Switzerland's ambassador in Moscow, Karl Fritsch. Representing Greece will be Premier Andreas Papandreu, a government announcement said. Foreign Minister Yannis Haralambopoulos will accompany Mr. Papandreu, it added.

The secretary general of the pro-Moscow Greek Communist Party, Harilaos Florakis, and Grigoris Farakos, a leading member of the party's central committee, will also attend, a Communist Party spokesman said.

Kampuchean leader Heng Samrin left Sunday for Moscow to attend Mr. Andropov's funeral, the Vietnam News Agency reported Monday.

The three communist Indochinese countries are sending their top leaders to Mr. Andropov's funeral. It was earlier announced that Truong Chinh, chairman of Vietnam's state council, and Laotian Head of State Prince Souphanouvong will be

leading delegations to the funeral. Chinese Vice-Premier Wan Li left Peking Monday to attend the state funeral for Mr. Andropov, expressing hopes for better ties between the two estranged Communist powers.

Mr. Wan is the most senior Chinese official to visit Moscow since then Premier Chu En Lai in 1961. His delegation included Vice Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, who heads the Chinese side at talks on normalising Sino-Soviet talks which began late in 1982.

Mr. Wan told reporters at Peking Airport that Mr. Andropov had several times indicated that relations between the Soviet Union and China should be normalised. "We share that desire," he said.

He added that the normalisation talks had led to an improvement in ties, but there still existed a number of obstacles. "We hope to remove these obstacles through friendly consultations," he said.

Reagan weighs conflicting advice on talks with new Soviet chief

By Jeffrey Atevil
Reuter

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, the first U.S. leader for more than 50 years not to have met his opposite number from the Soviet Union, is weighing conflicting advice on whether to seek an election-year summit meeting with Yuri Andropov's successor.

Administration spokesmen have put out different signals on the issue, reflecting the conflicting advice Mr. Reagan is getting and their own confusion as to which way the president will decide.

Mr. Reagan seemed to hint at a willingness for a summit on Saturday when he said the United States would welcome negotiations with the Soviet Union and there was no better time than now.

"What is needed now is for both sides to sit down and find ways of solving some of the problems that divide us," he said.

However, after several officials had encouraged reporters to believe that Mr. Reagan was signalling readiness for a get-acquainted summit with the new Soviet leader, the administration backtracked.

Officials then said it was premature to discuss the possibility before the identity of Mr. Andropov's successor was known.

U.N. Ambassador Jeane Kirkpatrick and Under-Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said in television interviews Sunday that Mr. Reagan's position on a full-scale substantive summit remained the same — it must be carefully prepared and have a good chance of producing results.

However, other officials continued to say privately that a get-acquainted meeting was still a possibility at some point before the presidential election on Nov. 6.

This would be consistent with Mr. Reagan's election-year effort to project a more conciliatory image and shift blame for the poor state of U.S.-Soviet relations to Moscow.

The same pressures were at work on Mr. Reagan on Friday, during the nearly 12 hours between the announcement of Mr. Andropov's death in Moscow and the White House announcement that the president would not attend the Soviet leader's funeral Tuesday but would send Vice-President George Bush.

Significantly, those urging Mr. Reagan to attend the funeral were mainly his domestic and political advisers such as White House Chief of Staff James Baker and his deputy, Michael Deaver.

The president's foreign policy advisers, who had been split on whether he should attend Mr. Leonid Brezhnev's funeral in November 1982, were virtually unanimous this time that he should not go, officials said.

Their reasoning included continuing uncertainty about the new leadership in the Kremlin and concern that a visit now would look like an election-year ploy and make Mr. Reagan appear too eager for agreement with Moscow.

They also said it was more important for him to devote his attention to the crisis in Lebanon, including meetings scheduled at the White House Monday and Tuesday with His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt.

A Reagan foreign policy adviser told reporters on Friday before Mr. Andropov's death, spurred by the U.S. arms build-up and the introduction of new nuclear missiles in Europe.

The continuation of this review at a time of new leadership in the Kremlin, he said, "will surely lead to possible changes in emphasis which we simply cannot prejudge until the succession is complete."

Several of those who said it would be inappropriate for Mr. Reagan to attend the funeral, such as former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, called on Mr. Reagan, however, to respond positively to a predicted new "peace offensive" from Mr. Andropov's successor or to make an initiative of his own.

Two leading U.S. Soviet scholars, Seweryn Bialer and Dmitri Simes, said in television interviews Sunday that Mr. Andropov's death gave Mr. Reagan his second opportunity in 15 months to "write the agenda" for a new Soviet leadership.

"He can make a speech, he can make a proposal and put it on the table, so this is a dramatic moment," Mr. Bialer said.

Mr. Simes said U.S. statements and actions now would influence Soviet deliberations that could bring new policies from the Kremlin in 1985. But he did not believe there would be any results this year because of Moscow's profound distrust of Mr. Reagan.

"I would be extremely surprised if the Soviets accommodate Mr. Reagan before the election," Soviet-born Mr. Simes said. "They don't want to help him politically."

Administration officials said they were unsure whether any new Soviet leader would be willing to see Mr. Reagan before the election if he sought such a summit.

Depending on the answer to that question, and on whether he wins a second four-year term in office, Mr. Reagan could leave the White House as the first U.S. president since Herbert Hoover, who served until March 1933, never to have met his Soviet counterpart.

Senator John Glenn, a Democratic presidential candidate, said of Mr. Andropov on Saturday: "Our president had never spoken with him, shaken his hand or looked him in the eye."

Moscow sends second carrier to Pacific Ocean

SINGAPORE (R) — The Soviet Union has sent a second aircraft carrier to the Pacific, boosting the operational capability of its Far East Fleet, a senior U.S. navy intelligence officer said Monday.

The officer told Reuters the carrier, the Novorossiysk, would enter the Malacca Straits Tuesday on its way to the Pacific where it would join another Soviet carrier, the Ulyanovsk.

The Novorossiysk, accompanied by a cruiser, a guided-missile frigate and an amphibious support ship, is expected to call at Cam Ranh Bay in southern Vietnam, extensively used by the Soviet navy, he added.

Cam Ranh Bay also provides support facilities for Soviet warships operating in the Indian Ocean, he said, adding: "At any day of the year there are 20 to 26 ships operating out of Cam Ranh."

At least four Soviet TU-95 Bear bombers and a number of Badger bombers with a range of 1,000 miles operate out of Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang, another Vietnamese port, he added.

Ho Chi Minh City, formerly known as Saigon, provided auxiliary and repair facilities for some of the Soviet warships, he said.

The officer is attached to the U.S. Seventh Fleet flagship Blue Ridge which arrived in Singapore Monday for a four-day goodwill visit from Subic Bay in the Philippines.

Non-Communist South East Asian countries have expressed growing concern in recent months over the expansion of Soviet naval and air activities in southern Vietnam.

The Kremlin had a total strength of 25 warships, including one Kiev class aircraft carrier, in the Indian Ocean, he said.

Australia deplores Soviet naval build-up in Pacific

SINGAPORE (R) — Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke Monday deplored the build-up of Soviet naval strength and increasing superpower rivalry in the Pacific.

Mr. Hawke, in Singapore on a three-day official visit, was commenting on U.S. intelligence reports that a second aircraft carrier was sailing to join the Soviet Pacific Fleet.

"I believe there is evidence of the extension of Soviet strategic power in our region which we deplore," he told a press conference after having talks with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew.

"Australia views with concern

the Soviet strategic build-up in North East Asia, particularly its military facilities at Cam Ranh Bay and Da Nang in southern Vietnam," he said.

"This enables Soviet penetration into the ocean of our region and extends superpower rivalry which must be deplored."

Singapore and other non-Communist South East Asian countries also have expressed concern over the Soviet build-up which they see as a threat to the Malacca Straits, the vital link between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

Balkan states start talks on nuclear-free zone

ATHENS (R) — Five Balkan states begin a week-long meeting here Monday in an effort to rid the Balkan peninsula of nuclear weapons.

Delegates from Communist Yugoslavia, Romania, Bulgaria and from NATO members Greece and Turkey will debate a proposal by Greek Prime Minister Andreas Papandreu to turn the area into a nuclear-free zone.

They will also discuss a variety of other topics on scientific and technical co-operation.

The only Balkan country not taking part in the meeting is Communist Albania which has said it prefers bilateral talks between the Balkan states.

Greece and Turkey are the only countries in the peninsula known to have nuclear arms on their territory as part of their commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

The Greek Socialists, who came

to power in 1981, pledged they would remove nuclear weapons from the country after the necessary consultations.

The Socialist government has come under fire from the conservative main opposition party, New Democracy, which called the nuclear-free proposal one-sided as Greece and Turkey are the only Balkan states to store nuclear weapons.

Turkey is known to favour talks on general Balkan co-operation, but has up to now reacted coolly to the idea of a nuclear-free zone.

The three communist Balkan states at the meeting favour the idea, but are understood to doubt its practicability unless they can obtain guarantees from the two super-powers that the area would not become a target of nuclear attack.

Yugoslavia, which is not a member of the Warsaw Pact, is known to prefer a wider Mediterranean de-nuclearised zone.

Aquino panel members to leave for Tokyo today

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Members of a board investigating the assassination of opposition leader Benigno Aquino announced Monday that they will go to Tokyo on Tuesday to hear the testimonies of possible eyewitnesses to the murder.

Board Chairwoman Corason Agrava announced at a news conference that the Japanese government had given the five members permission to sit in at the Japanese investigation of the witnesses.

"There are reports that the witnesses who are in Japan are eyewitnesses," Mrs. Agrava said. "I told you before that the board is praying for a miracle... that an eyewitness would come forward to state what he or she has seen on the tarmac on that day or at the very least provide us with a photo

of what happened." The Japanese witnesses include reporters and cameramen who travelled with the former senator on the China Air Lines plane that brought him home from self-exile in the United States on Aug. 21. Mr. Aquino was fatally shot as soldiers escorted him from the plane.

The government claims that Mr. Aquino was shot by alleged Communist agent Rolando Galman, who was shot seconds later.

Mr. Aquino family members, saying they have witnesses who claim Mr. Aquino was shot by soldiers, accuse President Ferdinand Marcos of involvement. Mr. Marcos has denied the allegation.

The boards also wants to hear testimonies from a Japanese ballistics expert and a voice-print expert.

Rebels claim shooting down Angolan plane

LISBON (R) — Angolan rebels said Monday they shot down a Boeing 737 carrying Angolan government and Cuban troops over the central city of Huambo.

A communique issued in Lisbon by the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) did not say how many troops were aboard the plane brought down last Thursday.

It also said rebels had shot down a MiG-21 fighter-bomber and a helicopter to eastern Mexico province.

Between Jan. 31 and Feb. 10, the statement said, 118 government soldiers and 29 Cubans were killed and 15 captured for the loss of 25 UNITA rebels and 58 wounded and eight missing.

UNITA said six tanks and five assault vehicles were destroyed in actions against government forces.

UNITA said the Boeing, carrying the registration D-2-PDV, was shot down as it was on its way from Huambo to Luanda, the Angolan capital.

The statement listed a series of actions in 10 of Angola's 18 provinces as evidence of UNITA's continuing offensive against the Marxist government, which it has been fighting since Angolan independence from Portugal in 1975.

In the north-eastern province of Luandao Feb. 1, the statement said, rebels attacked a convoy of 450 vehicles bound for Luanda, destroying 37 of them. In Huila province in southern Angola, 10 Cubans died when their vehicle hit a mine.

U.S. arrests high-technology smuggling ring

NEW YORK (AP) — Five people — two of them from Hong Kong — have been arrested for allegedly smuggling to China restricted high-technology equipment federal officials say could be used for military purposes.

The arrests came Saturday after a three-month "sting" operation in which an undercover U.S. customs agent posing as a technology broker met with the five suspects on several occasions, said U.S. customs special agent Arthur Stiffel on Sunday.

Before the ring was infiltrated however, authorities believe it successfully shipped to China about 1 million worth of "com-

puter, chip devices that can have military uses, according to Mr. Stiffel.

"Every loss of this kind is critical because it allows the Soviet Bloc and the (People's Republic of China) to decrease their deficit in high-tech abilities and bring them very close to our own technologies," Mr. Stiffel said.

He declined to elaborate on specific possible uses of the equipment that reached China, citing "sensitive" security reasons. He said he didn't know if any of the suspects were Chinese government agents, "but that aspect will be investigated."

The arrests were part of "Ope-

ration Exodus," a two-year effort by customs to stop high-technology equipment from reaching nations where it might be used against the United States.

In the undercover operation — or "sting," he said the agent posing as a broker arranged to sell 100 transverse wave tube amplifiers to the five for 12,500 each. The devices, which have military uses only, were to be shipped to a front firm in Kowloon, Hong Kong, then moved into China.

The agent got the two Hong Kong residents to come to the United States last week by promising to get them other equipment.

Gunmen kill ex-police chief's son in Punjab

NEW DELHI (R) — Four gunmen in a car shot dead the son of a former local police chief and badly wounded his friend in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar Monday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The news agency said the gunmen opened fire outside a shop and fled.

The attack took place on the eve of renewed talks between the government and militant Sikh leaders on demands for religious concessions and greater autonomy for the northern state of Punjab.

PTI said the dead man was 26-year-old Jagjit Singh, son of a former Amritsar police chief. It

said the chief was on the hit list of Punjab extremists for the alleged use of strong arm tactics during the interrogation of suspects.

Prime Minister Indira Gandhi decided to resume talks with Sikh leaders and opposition parties on the Punjab issue after discussions with opposition figures last week. They were broken off a year ago after failure to agree on which Sikh demands could be met.

Leaders of the militant Sikh Akali Dal Party, which has led the 18-month-old campaign, met in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar Monday night. Party spokesman Balwant Singh Ramoowalia said they agreed to send a five man

team to the talks in Delhi.

The campaign has increased tension between Sikhs and Hindus in India's northern state of Punjab, where most of the country's Sikhs live. The state was placed under direct rule from Delhi last October after eight Hindu bus and train passengers were killed by Sikh extremists.

Their demands include transfer of some 30 historic Sikh temples to control of the Sikh authorities in Amritsar, increased water rights for Punjab, transfer of Punjabi-speaking districts in neighbouring districts to the state and designation of the northern city of Candigarh as the Punjab capital.

Pakistani police arrest demonstrators

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Scores of students who tried to set fire to college buildings in nearby Rawalpindi Sunday to protest a government ban on student unions were taken into police custody, witnesses said.

Police would not comment on how many students were detained or whether the students had been charged, but local residents reported seeing several dozen people hauled away.

The students were protesting martial law regulations that have banned student unions most re-

cently in Sind province, as well as in Punjab province and the federal capital of Islamabad.

Unions were banned in North West Frontier Province (NWFP) several months ago. In Baluchistan, Pakistan's fourth province, student unions ceased functioning in the late 1970's following the military coup, a government spokesman said.

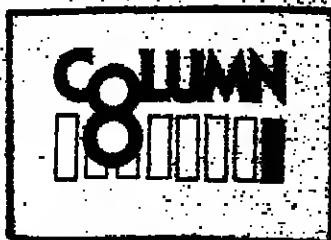
The students reportedly were taken into custody when they tried to set fire to science laboratories and other buildings at the government degree college in Raw-

alpindi, 19 kilometres south of here.

Witnesses said the students caused no serious property damage. But authorities later said Rawalpindi Medical College was ordered closed.

An Education Ministry official had said the unions were banned because political clashes between unions with different political affiliations were distracting the students from their studies.

But it is understood that the union ban is part of the preparation for elections.



Ben Kingsley to act in Silas Marner

LONDON (AP) — Ben Kingsley, who learned to spit fire for his role in the film Gandhi, is now to study traditional weaving for the title part in Silas Marner, the story of a weaver. The 1961 novel by George Eliot — the pen-name of Mary Ann Evans — will be made into a 90-minute television by the British Broadcasting Corp. Shooting starts at the end of this month. Kingsley, 31, will act Silas Marner from the age of 25 to his mid-fifties. The actor won a Hollywood Oscar for his role as Indian independence leader, Mohandas K. Gandhi. He said Sunday that his research into weaving will help him acquire the physical characteristics of Marner, "hunched short-sightedly over his loom, and his attitudes as a craftsman."

Fake bishop detained

ROME (AP) — At first, local clergy were flattered, but after 10 days they thought God might not be pleased and turned in to the police a Polish layman who posed as a bishop to celebrate mass. When Stanislaw Lukinski Cieslaw arrived Saturday to celebrate mass for his 11th consecutive day at Rome's St. Mary of Magdalen Church, he found his altar boys had been replaced by a policeman who arrested him on charges of using a false identity. Mr. Cieslaw, 42, initially pleaded innocent. But when police produced documents naming him in similar swindles, he made his confession.

Beggar gangs try to kidnap children

BANGKOK (R) — A government-run Welfare Centre for Handicapped Children has asked for police protection because gangs are trying to abduct the youngsters and turn them into beggars, an official of the centre said Monday. Many gangs in and around Bangkok put severely handicapped children on the streets, with each earning about \$35 to \$40 a day, he told reporters. Often ill-treated by the gangs, the children are forced to beg from morning to night on pavements, at seaside resorts and at temple fairs, the official said. He said one homeless 19-year-old girl, taken to the welfare centre by police after a recent crackdown on beggars, had been sold to a gang seven years ago by her impoverished parents and became a top money earner. She will now be cared for by the centre, which looks after about 250 children, the official said.

Elton John to marry today

SYDNEY (R) — British rock star Elton John has been given permission to marry Tuesday after the waiving of rules which required 30 days' notice before the ceremony could be held. John, 36, on a tour of Australia, proposed to his West German girlfriend Renata Blauel, 30, on Friday and they planned the wedding for Tuesday. The state of New South Wales requires 30 days' advance notice of marriage, a law designed to give couples time to think about what they are doing. However, State Attorney-General Paul Landis, a self-confessed fan of the rock star, waived the rule after receiving what he said were good and sufficient reasons for a swift wedding. John and his sound engineer, fiancee will marry at St Mark's Anglican Church in Sydney's eastern suburbs. The guest list includes Australian singer Olivia Newton-John.

British art hoaxer dies aged 66

LONDON (R) — British artist Tom Keating, a self-confessed faker who fooled the art world with imitations of English masterpieces, died in hospital Sunday aged 66. Mr. Keating, who specialised in imitations of the 19th century English water colourist Samuel Palmer, died after a heart attack, the hospital in Colchester, Eastern England, said. Five years ago, because of his ill health, Britain's attorney general dropped charges against him of faking pictures. In 1964, a London art dealer sold one of his Palmer imitations for £2,500 (\$7,000 at 1964 prices) after it had been authenticated by an established gallery. He also imitated works of John Constable and Joseph Turner.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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TACKLE THE RIGHT SUIT FIRST

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♦ A Q 3
♥ J 5 2
♦ K 7 4 2
♠ 9 6 2

WEST
♦ 10 6
♥ K 9 4
♦ J 9 8 3
♠ K 10 7 4

EAST
♦ J 9 8 5 2
♥ A Q 10 7 6 3
♦ 10 5
♠ Void

SOUTH
♦ K 7 4
♥ 8
♦ A Q 6
♠ A K J 8 5 3

The bidding:

South West North East
1 ♦ Pass 1 NT 2 ♥
3 ♥ Pass 4 ♦ Pass
5 ♠ Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Four of ♣.

Right from the the moment he picked up the cards to deal the first hand, Trump Coup Tommy felt that it was going to be his day. As you know, Tommy is the club hack who becomes a genius the moment things begin breaking badly. Club members are convinced that, if world championships could be played with preset hands in which all the distributions are abominable, Tommy would be unbeatable.

Tommy's bid of three hearts was forcing, and it invited his partner to bid three

nn trump with a stunner in hearts. North's four club denied a heart stopper, and Tommy settled for the club game.

West led the four of

hearts, East won the ace and continued the suit. Tommy ruffed, and he beamed with delight when East showed out on the king of clubs. Now the contract could only be made via a trump coup, and to accomplish that declarer had to shorten his trumps, then strip the hand.

A lesser mortal might first have tackled the spade suit, but he would have been defeated as the cards lie. Tommy realized that he could not make his contract unless West held at least three diamonds. So he cashed three rounds of diamonds, and when East showed out on the third round, Tommy ruffed a diamond. He crossed to the ace of spades, ruffed a heart, crossed back to the queen of spades and ruffed another heart.

Tommy was down to the king-jack of trumps and king of spades, while West had three trumps. Tommy simply exited with the king of spades. West was forced to ruff, and then had to lead a trump from his queen into Tommy's king-jack tenace. Tommy lost only a heart trick and a spade ruff.